CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

WEDNESDAY ▸ DECEMBER 3, 2025 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 138 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

Judge-led probe ordered after deadly Hong Kong fire P8

Gujarat Highlights Jan Dhan Yojana's Transformative Impact P9

P12 Maxwell pulls out of IPL 2026, signalling close of storied league career

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

DKS will become CM when high command decides: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah says DK Shivakumar will become Karnataka CM when Congress high command decides; leaders stress unity, while opposition criticizes 'breakfast diplomacy'

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has stated that DK Shivakumar will assume the Chief Minister's post whenever the Congress high command decides.

Speaking to the media after a breakfast meeting at DK Shivakumar's residence in Sadashivanagar, Siddaramaiah responded to questions about when DK Shivakumar would become CM by saying it depends on the high command's direction.

The CM added that during the meeting, they discussed several party matters and strategies in view of the upcoming assembly session starting on December 8. He emphasized that they have remained united in the past and continue to be so, sharing the same principles and vision. Siddaramaiah also reaffirmed that the Congress party aims to return to power in 2028.

On BJP's intentions regarding no-confidence motions, Siddaramaiah said the party will face them together, and that they plan to travel to Delhi for parliamentary sessions. If called by the high command, they would meet them as well.

Ashoka slams govt for ignoring public issues

Bengaluru

Opposition leader R. Ashoka slammed the Congress government for failing to address farmers' concerns and neglecting pothole repairs, He criticized CM Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar for holding breakfast meetings instead of tackling pressing public issues.

JDS' Nikhil Kumaraswamy slams Congress

Bengaluru

JD(S) MLA Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Tuesday criticised the Karnataka Congress leadership amid the ongoing power struggle, mocking repeated breakfast meetings between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

More on page 3

Imran Khan being subjected to 'mental torture,' says sister

LAHORE

Former Pakistan Prime Minister and PTI founder Imran Khan is alive but facing "mental torture" in solitary confinement, his sister Dr. Uzma Khan said on Tuesday after meeting him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Her visit came after weeks of uncertainty, as authorities had imposed an unannounced ban on family meetings for more than a month, fuelling speculation on social media about Khan's wellbeing.

According to a PTI statement, Khan has been kept in isolation and subjected to psychological pressure, though Uzma confirmed that his physical health appears stable. The 73-year-old leader has been incarcerated since August 2023 in multiple cases. Jail authorities, however, maintain that he is in good health.

The meeting took place amid heightened tensions in Rawalpindi, where the Punjab government deployed the entire district police force along Adiala Road to prevent PTI supporters from protesting. Section 144 is in effect across Rawalpindi and Islamabad, with roads sealed, schools closed and residents required to show ID to move through restricted areas.

QUICK READ

Strict pickup rules at KIA to curb traffic congestion

BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (KIAB) will implement a new set of pickup regulations from December 8, 2025, to ease traffic congestion, improve safety, and enhance passenger convenience in arrival areas. The airport, India's third-largest and among the fastest-growing, handles nearly 130,000 passengers and about 100,000 vehicles daily, with curbside traffic emerging as a major bottleneck. To address long-standing congestion caused by private cars and cabs waiting for extended periods at terminal curbs, BIAL is introducing a dedicated lane system.

More on page 2

Indonesia flood-landslide death toll rises to 708

JAKARTA

The death toll from devastating floods and landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island has climbed to 708, the national disaster agency confirmed on Tuesday, as rescue teams work urgently to reach isolated communities. The agency revised the number from an earlier figure of 753 posted on its website, without explaining the discrepancy. Nearly 900 people have died in recent weeks across Indonesia and neighbouring Southeast Asian countries amid a spell of extreme weather that also brought successive typhoons to the Philippines and Vietnam.

PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

LS to take up debate on electoral reforms on Dec 9

Oppn pressure prompts agreement on debates over Vande Mataram anniversary

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha reached a breakthrough after a turbulent start to the winter session, with floor leaders agreeing to hold a discussion on 150 years of Vande Mataram, followed by a two-day debate on electoral reforms—an issue the Opposition has persistently pushed to the forefront.

Congress chief whip K. Suresh announced that all parties, including the Trinamool Congress, had agreed to the schedule. The Vande Mataram debate will be held next Monday, while deliberations on electoral reforms and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process are slated for December 8 and 9. The government had been keen to prioritise the anniversary discussion before taking up reform-related issues.

The floor leaders' consensus emerged during a meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, raising hopes that the session will proceed more smoothly. In contrast, the Rajya Sabha has yet to finalise its debate calendar.

During the All Party Meeting Chaired by Speaker Lok Sabha today, it has been decided to hold discussion in Lok Sabha on 150th Anniversary of National Song 'Vande Mataram' from 12 Noon on Monday 8th December and discussion on Election Reforms from 12 noon on Tuesday 9th December.

—Kiren Rijiju, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Despite Tuesday's development, friction persisted earlier in the day, with a government–Opposition meeting failing to produce clarity on when the SIR debate would be held. Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju met leaders from Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party, DMK, CPI(M) and AAP, reiterating that the discussion would take place but asserting that the Opposition could not dictate the timeline.

Opposition leaders expressed dissatisfaction, saying the government had offered no firm assurance. TMC's Derek O'Brien said they wanted the SIR discussion scheduled immediately, while Congress's Jairam Ramesh cited a "huge trust deficit" between the two sides.

Manipur GST Bill, 2025, returned to Lok Sabha

Rajya Sabha returns Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 to Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday took up a discussion on the Manipur GST bill to replace an Ordinance promulgated to implement the GST 2.0 reforms in the northeastern state. The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday after a brief discussion and a statement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Several Opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday (December 2, 2025) staged a protest in the Parliament House complex against the SIR and demanded a discussion on electoral reforms.

Census to be done in two phases: Govt

NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases. Giving details of the exercise in response to a question by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the two phases will be -- Phase I-House Listing and Housing Census followed by Phase II- Population Enumeration (PE). The first phase from April to September 2026 will be conducted in a period of 30 days in accordance with the convenience of state/UT governments.

The second phase, Population Enumeration (PE), is scheduled for February 2027, with the reference date set at 00:00 hours on March 1, 2027. Exceptions include Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, where enumeration will occur in September 2026, with a reference date of October 1, 2026.

The minister stated that the census questionnaire is finalized based on suggestions from ministries, departments, and data users. Census 2027 will be conducted digitally, using mobile apps and online self-enumeration.

Users can keep or delete Sanchar Saathi app: Scindia

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified on Tuesday that users have the choice to keep or delete the government-owned Sanchar Saathi app, amid rising controversy over its mandatory pre-installation on mobile devices. Developed by the Department of Telecom (DoT) as a fraud reporting tool, the app is aimed at protecting users from phone-related scams and theft.

The DoT has directed all mobile handset manufacturers and importers to ensure that Sanchar Saathi is pre-installed on all new devices and delivered via software updates on existing phones.

According to the November 28 order, phones manufactured in India or imported within 90 days of the directive must include the app, and companies must report compliance to the DoT within 120 days.

Scindia emphasized that users can delete the app or choose not to register it, in which case it remains inactive. He underlined the government's goal to make the app widely available to safeguard citizens against fraud, while still respecting individual choice.

What is Sanchar Saathi?
Launched in January, the Sanchar Saathi app allows users to check a device's IMEI, report lost or stolen phones and flag suspected fraud communications.

APPLE TO RESIST SANCHAR SAATHI

Apple is preparing to challenge the Indian government's directive requiring all smartphone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi application on devices sold in the country, setting the stage for a significant confrontation between a global tech giant and New Delhi.

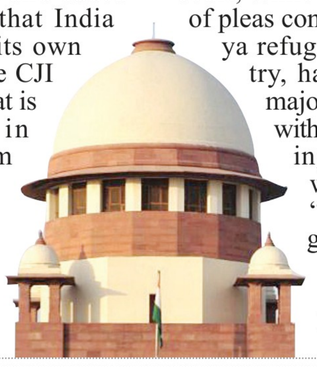
The government's order, issued last week, mandates that handset makers embed the app within 90 days and ensure it is present even on units already in transit or inventory.

SC QUESTIONS LEGAL STATUS OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sharply questioned the legal status of Rohingya migrants living in India, observing that those who enter the country illegally cannot expect a "red carpet welcome" while millions of Indian citizens struggle with poverty. The remarks came from a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi during the hearing of a habeas corpus petition filed by activist Rita Manchanda, who claimed several Rohingyas picked up by Delhi Police in May had gone missing.

The bench asked why individuals without legal permission to stay in India should be entitled to state benefits such as food, shelter, and education. Stressing that India must prioritise its own poor citizens, the CJI questioned, "What is the problem in sending them back?" The court acknowledged that deportation could involve logistical challenges but noted that illegal entry cannot create automatic rights.



The petitioner cited a 2020 Supreme Court order requiring deportations to follow due process. Meanwhile, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued the petitioner lacked the locus to file the plea.

The bench reiterated that the key question is whether Rohingyas are "refugees or illegal entrants." Once determined, issues such as deportation, detention, bail, and access to basic amenities can be addressed. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the plea has not been filed by an affected person and the petitioner has no locus to file such a plea. On July 31, the top court, while hearing a batch of pleas concerning Rohingya refugees in the country, had said the first major issue to be dealt with in cases concerning Rohingyas is whether they are "refugees or illegal entrants." The matter will next be heard on December 16.

'Branded terrorist without trial,' Imam tells SC

NEW DELHI

Activist Sharjeel Imam on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that he was being unfairly branded a "dangerous intellectual terrorist" despite having no convictions and without the conclusion of a full-fledged trial, as he sought bail in a case linked to the February 2020 Delhi riots.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N.V. Anjaria, senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, representing Imam, said the activist had been arrested on January 28, 2020, before the riots and that his speeches alone could not constitute participation in a "criminal conspiracy". "I am not a terrorist or an anti-national," he said.

AIR INDIA LAPSE

DGCA probes Air India plane for flying on expired ARC

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has grounded an Air India aircraft and initiated a comprehensive investigation after the airline disclosed that the plane had operated eight commercial flights despite its Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) having expired.

According to a press note from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India notified the regulator on November 26, 2025, that one of its aircraft was mistakenly deployed for revenue operations after the ARC had lapsed. The ARC is an essential annual certification that confirms an aircraft's ongoing compliance with safety and airworthiness standards, forming the basis for maintaining its main Certificate of Airworthiness.

The ministry clarified that the oversight occurred amid the ongoing merger of Vistara into Air India. As part of this transition, all 70 aircraft previously belonging to Vistara required renewed ARCs during 2024. During this period, the ARC expired, and the aircraft was later released for operations. Once the lapse was identified, the DGCA immediately ordered Air India to ground the aircraft and launched a probe to establish how it was permitted to fly without a valid certificate. The process to renew the ARC is now in progress.

- In August 2020, Air India Express Flight 1344 crashed after skidding off a rain-soaked tabletop runway in Kozhikode, killing 21 people.
- A decade earlier, in May 2010, Flight 812 from Dubai overshot the runway in Mangalore and plunged into a gorge, leaving 158 dead.
- June's Air India crash was the third such accident in the country in 15 years.

QUICK READ

Old School Bus Completely Gutted in Fire

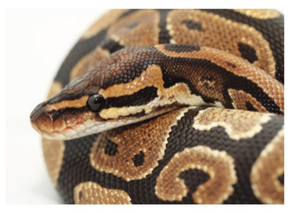
Udupi

A devastating fire broke out on Monday evening near Kendriya Vidyalaya in Manipal's Alevoor Pragathi Nagar, leaving an old school bus in ashes. The fire, which started in dry grass, quickly spread to the parked bus, engulfing it in flames. Local residents promptly informed the fire brigade, and firefighters from the Malpe Fire Station rushed to the scene to extinguish the blaze. Thanks to their swift action, no one was hurt in the incident. However, the old private school bus, which was reportedly around 15 years old, was completely gutted. The cause of the fire is believed to be dry grass catching fire, which then spread to the bus. The bus had been parked in the area for a few months, with overgrown grass surrounding it.

Woman Loses ₹1.38 Lakh to Cyber Fraudster

Udupi

A 50-year-old woman from Brahmavar has fallen victim to a cyber fraud, losing ₹1.38 lakh to a scammer who impersonated a bank officer. The incident occurred on November 20, when the fraudster called the woman, Rita Rodrigues, claiming her ATM card needed renewal. He obtained her Aadhaar and PAN card details and later sent an OTP to her mobile phone. The scammer then used the OTP to transfer a total of ₹1,38,900 from her Canara Bank account to his own in six separate transactions. The Brahmavar police have registered a case under Sections 66 (C) and 66 (D) of the Information Technology Act. As a precaution, to avoid falling prey to such scams, verify caller identity, keep personal information secure and monitor accounts.



Snake Catcher Saves the Day: Python Found in Wedding Party Bus

Moodabidri

A dramatic incident unfolded in Moodabidri on Monday evening when a private bus carrying a newlywed couple and their families from Puttur to Hebri stopped for a tea break at a hotel near Goli Baje Centre. As the driver checked the vehicle, he was shocked to spot a large Python inside the bus. The passengers were naturally alarmed, but fortunately, snake catcher Dinesh from Padukonaje was called in to rescue the situation. Dinesh and his team arrived promptly and successfully removed the slithering intruder from the bus. The family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dinesh and his team for their timely assistance, which allowed them to continue their journey without further incident. The snake was safely captured and relocated, bringing an end to the tense situation.

Honavar Police Charge NH Officials, Contractor After Series of Accidents

KARWAR

The Honavar police have taken a significant step by filing a case against the national highway department officials and the contractor responsible for the maintenance of the Gerusoppa-Bengaluru National Highway. The case stems from the repeated accidents at the Sulimurgi curve, which has been identified as a black spot.

A History of Accidents

The Sulimurgi curve has witnessed a disturbing number of accidents over the years. In 2021, there were 10 accidents, resulting in one death and 13 injuries. The following year, six accidents caused one death and 53 injuries. In 2023, six accidents left 60 people injured. This year, up to December, 12 accidents have taken place, causing five deaths and injuring 138 people.

Lack of Action

Despite the police identifying the curve as a black spot and writing to the government to repair the stretch, no concrete action has been taken. The government sanctioned Rs 9 crore for the work four years ago, but the project has been stalled due to the forest department's refusal to allow tree cutting. The lack of coordination between departments and the absence of political will have contributed to the inaction.

Public Outcry

The public and local organizations have submitted representations to the authorities, highlighting the need for urgent action. However, the lack of response has led to widespread criticism. The recent bus accident, which resulted in the death of a schoolboy on his birthday, has further intensified the public outcry.

Demand for Action

The people are demanding that the authorities take immediate action to address the safety concerns at the Sulimurgi curve. The forest department's strict rules have brought various development projects to a standstill, including road maintenance and construction. The public is questioning the priority given to tree conservation over human lives.

Next Steps

The case filed by the Honavar police against the national highway department officials and the contractor is expected to bring attention to the issue. The authorities will need to take concrete steps to address the safety concerns and prevent further accidents. The public is eagerly awaiting action, hoping that the authorities will prioritize their safety and well-being.

Puttur's Healthcare Dream Takes Shape: 300-Bed Hospital Approved

PUTTUR

The Karnataka government has taken a significant step towards establishing a government medical college in Puttur, with the finance department approving the construction of a 300-bed hospital. According to Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai, the approval was granted on November 27, paving the way for the medical college project announced in the 2025-26 state budget.

Project Timeline

A detailed project report (DPR) for the hospital is expected to be ready within 45 days.

The tender process for construction will be completed within two months.

After the tender process, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will lay the foundation stone for the project.

The medical college is estimated to cost ₹1,000 crore, and the government has proposed to build it on 40 acres of land at Bannur, near Puttur city. The MLA emphasized that implementing the project through the Medical Education Department will ensure a smooth flow of approvals and adherence to Medical Council of India guidelines.

Government's Commitment

The government has fulfilled its promise to establish a medical college in Puttur, despite opposition leaders doubting its commitment. The MLA criticized the previous government's inability to initiate the project, saying, "When they were in power, they couldn't take up the initiative of establishing a medical college in Puttur. With the finance department giving its approval for the project, the Opposition party leaders should stop mocking and criticising."

The project is expected to provide quality medical education and healthcare services to the people of Puttur and surrounding areas. With the finance department's approval, the project is now set to take off, fulfilling the government's promise to the people.

Malpe Sea Walk: A Neglected Coastal Treasure

UDUPI

The 480-meter-long stretch, which was once a popular tourist spot, has fallen into disrepair, with thick vegetation overgrowing on both sides

Karnataka's first sea walk, located in Malpe, has been reduced to a state of neglect due to poor maintenance. The 480-meter-long stretch, which was once a popular tourist spot, has fallen into disrepair, with thick vegetation overgrowing on both sides. The lack of upkeep has not only diminished its visual appeal but also made it difficult for visitors to navigate.

Infrastructure Issues

The sea walk, constructed at a cost of Rs 53.5 lakh and inaugurated in 2018, has several infrastructure issues. The granite slabs along the retaining wall are damaged, and the interlock tiles are uneven, making it challenging for visitors to walk. The retaining walls on both sides have weakened, and plastic waste, bottles, and other litter have accumulated across the area.

Safety Concerns

The overgrown bushes have made it difficult for visitors to sit and relax, and the dense foliage has turned into a habitat for insects and reptiles. Tourists have expressed concerns about their safety, especially after dark. "In the early years, the Malpe sea walk was well maintained, but now there is no proper upkeep. With overgrown bushes, it becomes unsafe after sunset. Authorities must take appropriate action and carry out maintenance work," said Shivananda B. Kundar, entrepreneur and regular visitor.

Call for Action

Environmentalists and locals have emphasized the need for proper maintenance to ensure visitor safety. "Proper maintenance is essential to ensure visitor safety," said Dayanand, an environmentalist. The authorities must take immediate action to address the issues and restore the sea walk to its former glory. With the number of tourists visiting the spot increasing, it is essential to maintain the infrastructure and ensure the safety of visitors.

Puttige Math Submits Five Key Demands to PM Modi for Coastal Development

UDUPI

In a bid to boost the coastal region's development, the ParyayaPuttige Math has submitted five major demands to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The demands were presented by Paryaya Sri Sugunendra Teertha Swamiji and junior pontiff Sri Sushreendra Teertha Swamiji during the Laksha Kantha Geetha Parayana programme held on November 28.

KEY DEMANDS

- Udupi-Mangaluru Metro Service: The Math has requested a metro service connecting the twin cities of Udupi and Mangaluru to strengthen public transport.
- International Airport in Udupi: An international airport is proposed to be established on 1,000 acres of land reserved near Padubidri, which would benefit trade, education, healthcare, and religious tourism in the region.
- International-Standard Port: With nearly 100 km of coastline and several key ports, including Malpe, the Math highlighted the potential for developing an international-standard port. It also urged the Centre to review and ease Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms to boost seafood exports, tourism, and the fisheries sector.
- IT Park and AI Innovation Park: Udupi, being a hub of educational and technical institutions, was proposed as a suitable location for an IT Park and an AI Innovation Park under the Digital India and Startup India initiatives. The Math also sought support for cloud-computing infrastructure development.
- Recognition for Kambala: The petition emphasized that Kambala, the traditional buffalo race of coastal Karnataka, deserves recognition as a national sport. It requested financial support and infrastructure development through various central schemes to promote the region's growth.

The demands aim to promote economic growth, improve infrastructure, and preserve the region's cultural heritage. By focusing on transportation, tourism, and industry development, the Puttige Math seeks to unlock the potential of the coastal region and improve the lives of its residents.

Cracking Down on Stray Dogs: Udupi City Municipal Council Issues Directives

UDUPI

In a bid to tackle the growing concern of stray dogs in the city, the Udupi City Municipal Council has issued a set of directives to various institutions, including educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, and public transportation hubs.

Key Highlights

The council's move is in response to the Supreme Court's guidelines aimed at preventing stray dog nuisance and ensuring public safety. Institutions are now required to take proactive measures to control the stray dog population within their premises.

What Institutions Need to Do

Conduct a thorough inspection of their premises to identify and count stray dogs

Appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the municipality on stray dog relocation and management

Implement measures to prevent stray dog nuisance and restrict their movement within the premises

Report details of stray dogs to the municipal commissioner

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with these directives will result in legal action, and institutions will be liable for the costs of relocating stray dogs that re-enter their premises after relocation.

Humane Treatment of Stray Dogs

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has emphasized the importance of implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the care and management of stray dogs. These SOPs include providing lifetime shelter, food, and vaccinations to captured stray dogs, as well as compulsory sterilization and anti-rabies vaccinations.

The Udupi City Municipal Council is expected to closely monitor compliance and take action against institutions that fail to adhere to these guidelines.

MDMA Scandal: Alleged Financier Arrested at Kozhikode Airport

KASARAGOD

In a significant breakthrough in the 3.5kg MDMA seizure case in Kasaragod, the alleged financier, Shamsudheen, was apprehended at Kozhikode International Airport while attempting to flee to Dubai. The 34-year-old resident of Thrissur was detained on Monday as he prepared to board a flight with his family.

Investigation and Arrest

According to Manjeshwar Station House Officer, Inspector Ajith Kumar P, Shamsudheen had been summoned several times for questioning but failed to appear. A lookout notice was issued, and he was intercepted at the airport. Police allege that Shamsudheen financed the operation and arranged the carriers who moved the narcotics.

Case Details

The investigation revealed that Askar Ali, the initial accused, was likely just a mule in the operation. Scrutiny of his bank accounts showed heavy cash movements, indicating a wider network involved in sourcing narcotics through anonymized messaging platforms. Shamsudheen's role in financing the operation was uncovered during the investigation.

MDMA SEIZURE

The 3.5kg MDMA seizure was made by Melparamba and Manjeshwar police on September 20, 2024, in Uppala. The police had stumbled upon the cache during a routine vehicle check and later raided the house of Askar Ali, where the narcotics were found. The seizure is considered Kerala's second-biggest haul of the party drug.

Value of the Haul

During questioning, Shamsudheen reportedly stated that the MDMA was valued at Rs 2,000 per gram, placing the worth of the 3.5kg haul at approximately Rs 70 lakh. However, authorities believe this could be an understatement.

Aftermath

Shamsudheen was produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody for two weeks. Meanwhile, Askar Ali, the first accused, had secured bail a few months after his arrest. The case highlights the ongoing efforts of law enforcement agencies to combat narcotics trafficking in the region.

Puttur Tahsildar SB Kudalagi Resumes Duty After Absence

PUTTUR

Tahsildar SB Kudalagi, who was absent from duty after an FIR was filed against him by the Lokayukta police, has resumed his duties. The FIR was filed in connection with a case related to demanding a bribe for issuing a no-objection certificate (NOC) for land transfer under the Akram Shaqram scheme.

Background of the Case

The case against Kudalagi was filed based on a complaint by Ajith, a resident of Eshwarnagala. Ajith had applied for an NOC to transfer land to his name, but the process was stalled due to the alleged demand for a bribe by Kudalagi and another official, Sunil Kumar. The Lokayukta police had registered a case against both of them and arrested Sunil Kumar while accepting a bribe of ₹12,000.

Kudalagi's Absence and Return

After the FIR was filed, Kudalagi was absent from duty for a prolonged period. During his absence, Putturu Deputy Sub-Divisional Officer Nagraj V was appointed as the officiating Tahsildar. Kudalagi's anticipatory bail application was initially rejected by the district court, but he later obtained relief from the High Court.

Kudalagi's Response

Reacting to the allegations, Kudalagi said that the charges against him were baseless and that he had done nothing wrong. "Unnecessary allegations have been made against me. I have 30 years of service and have never indulged in such activities. The truth will come out soon, and I will prove my innocence," he said.

Kudalagi also stated that some staff members were misusing his name to demand bribes and that he had issued a circular warning them against such activities.

QUICK READ

Two Inter-State Accused Arrested for Stealing Two-Wheelers

Mangaluru

The Kankanady City Police Station has apprehended two individuals, Alex Dominic (25) from Ottathayi in Kerala's Vellad, and Amal Krishna (25) from Kurachoor in Kozhikode, for allegedly stealing two two-wheelers in Mangaluru. The duo was arrested on November 30 after police received information about their presence in the city. According to investigations, Dominic and Krishna arrived in Mangaluru on November 14 and began exploring potential targets. They stole a scooter parked near the Naguri bus stop and another scooter near the Adimaye Temple in Jeppinamogaru, with the total value of the stolen vehicles estimated at ₹1.23 lakh. The police recovered the stolen scooters along with two mobile phones used in the crime. The arrests were made possible due to swift action by the Kankanady City Police Station.

Bhaskar Devadiga Receives Karnataka Kreeda Ratna Award

Mangaluru

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in Kambala racing, Bhaskar Devadiga has been honored with the prestigious Karnataka Kreeda Ratna award for 2022. The award was presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a ceremony held in Bengaluru on Monday evening.Hailing from Nandanavana village in Bijoor, Bhaskar Devadiga is a farmer by profession and a seasoned Kambala runner with over 15 years of experience. He has won numerous accolades, including more than 300 medals in traditional Kambala events and over 75 medals in Jodukare Kambala events across Dakshina Kannada district.In 2022, Bhaskar Devadiga set a remarkable record at the Mulki Jodukare Kambala event in the Kane halage category. He achieved this feat by spraying water to targets of 6.5 and 7.5 poles in a single run.

Surathkal Government Hospital Upgrade Demanded in Protest

Mangaluru

A 12-hour mass dharna was held on Monday by the Save Government Hospital Committee, demanding the upgrade of the Surathkal Government Hospital to a higher level. The protesters also called for stricter regulation of private hospitals, strengthening of government hospitals, and the establishment of Kidwai Cancer Hospital and Jayadeva Heart Hospital units in Mangaluru. The protesters, led by Munir Katipalla, convener of the Save Government Hospital Committee, demanded that the Surathkal Government Hospital be upgraded to a 40-bed community health center and that the foundation stone-laying ceremony be held within the month.A team of officials, led by Taluk Health Officer Dr. Sujay Bhandari, visited the protest site and received a memorandum. Dr. Bhandari assured the protesters that their demands would be forwarded to the health department.

Sixty-year-old man cycles India solo promoting peace, unity

He covers around 60-70 kilometers per day on his old cycle, carrying a small bag with essential items and a board with his message.

MANGALURU

A 60-year-old man from Hassan, Nagraj Gowda, has been on a solo cycle journey across India for the past six years, promoting world peace and national unity. Gowda, who is unmarried and has been away from his family, started his journey from Mumbai with a simple message of spreading awareness about peace and unity.

The Journey So Far

Gowda has traveled through numerous states, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. He covers around 60-70 kilometers per day on his old cycle, carrying a small bag with essential items and a board with his message.

Meetings and Interactions

During his journey, Gowda has met several people, including six Chief Ministers of different states. He has also met actor Sonu Sood, who shared his thoughts on the importance of peace and unity.

A Life of Simplicity

Gowda's life is simple and austere. He stays in temples, dharmshalas, and gurudwaras during his journey, and accepts donations from people to support himself. Despite having the opportunity to return home, he has only visited his house twice in the past six years, preferring to continue his journey and spread his message.

Inspiration to Many

Gowda's journey is an inspiration to many, showcasing the power of determination and dedication to a cause. His message of peace and unity is more relevant today than ever, and his journey serves as a reminder of the importance of promoting harmony and understanding among people .

Current Leg

Gowda has now reached Mangaluru and plans to head to Gokarna next. His journey is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for endurance and the importance of following one's passion.

City to Launch "Traffic Cop for a Day" Initiative to Ease Congestion

MANGALURU

This program, which has already been successfully implemented in Bengaluru, allows citizens to stand at major junctions and help manage traffic like police personnel

In a bid to reduce traffic congestion and promote citizen participation in maintaining law and order, the Mangaluru City Police are planning to launch the "Traffic cop for a day" initiative. This program, which has already been successfully implemented in Bengaluru, allows citizens to stand at major junctions and help manage traffic like police personnel.

The Need for Change

Mangaluru is facing significant traffic challenges, with narrow roads and high traffic density. The city experiences heavy congestion during peak hours, particularly near schools, colleges, and busy junctions. Even with traffic signals in place, managing traffic flow remains a challenge. The situation is further complicated by the increasing traffic density in nearby towns like Surathkal, Ullal, and Moodbidri.

How the Programme Works

The "Traffic cop for a day" program involves citizens volunteering to manage traffic at designated junctions. After registering through a dedicated mobile app, volunteers will receive instructions and training on how to control traffic manually. They will then stand alongside traffic police for a few hours, helping to manage traffic and improve discipline on the roads.

Benefits of the Programme

The program aims to not only ease traffic congestion but also raise awareness among the public about the importance of following traffic rules. By working alongside traffic police, volunteers will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies and develop a greater appreciation for the need to follow traffic regulations.

Appointment of Traffic Wardens

While there are no immediate plans to implement the Bengaluru model in Mangaluru, efforts are underway to appoint more traffic wardens. A Chief Traffic Warden is expected to be appointed within a week, and interested citizens will be selected later to join the initiative.

Past Experience

The idea of citizen participation in traffic management is not new to Mangaluru. Earlier, NSS and NCC students from schools and colleges used to help traffic police as part of awareness activities. Although these programs have stopped, the city is now looking to revive this initiative with the "Traffic cop for a day" program.

Medical Emergency Forces Riyadh–Thiruvananthapuram Flight to Divert to MIA

MANGALURU

A medical emergency onboard an Air India Express flight led to an unscheduled landing at Mangaluru International Airport (MgIA) late on Monday, enabling timely treatment for a passenger who fell seriously ill mid-air.

The flight, IX 522, was operating from Riyadh to Thiruvananthapuram when crew members noticed that a passenger in his late 30s had developed a medical complication. The situation was immediately relayed to MgIA's Operations Control Centre, prompting the airport to initiate its emergency response system.

Airport officials said medical teams were kept on standby while CISF, immigration and customs personnel were alerted to facilitate swift movement upon landing. The flight touched down safely, after which airport doctors boarded the aircraft to examine the passenger. He was stabilised and shifted to a city-based tertiary hospital for further treatment. His relatives, who were travelling with him, accompanied him to the hospital.

"All agencies responded promptly and worked together to ensure the passenger received immediate medical attention. The airport remains fully prepared to manage such situations with efficiency and care."

—An MgIA spokesperson praised the coordinated effort

Sources at the airport said prompt care provided by the cabin crew during the flight helped prevent the situation from worsening before the aircraft landed in Mangaluru.

Following the evacuation and completion of formalities, the diverted aircraft resumed its journey and departed for Thiruvananthapuram at around 2.05 a.m. on Tuesday.

Narayana-Gandhi Dialogue Centenary Celebrated

MANGALURU

To commemorate the historic dialogue between Brahmashree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi, a centenary celebration will be held on December 3 at Mangaluru University's Mangalagangothri campus. The event, titled "Sri Mahaguru's Mahasamadhi Shabdabdi Sarvamata Sammelan," will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The program, scheduled to begin at 9:30 am, will feature keynote addresses by Lok Sabha's Public Accounts Committee Chairman KC Venugopal and Shivarama Swami Shubhangaanananda Parinirvana. Brahmashree Sachchidananda Swami, Peethadhipathi of Verkala Sivagiri Mutt, will deliver the benedictory address.

Interfaith Meet to Discuss Values and Harmony

The interfaith meet, scheduled from 2 pm to 4 pm, will be inaugurated by renowned cultural thinker Ganesh Devy. The session will be chaired by MLC and program committee chairman BK Hariprasad. Swami Rithambarananda of Sivagiri Mutt will deliver a message on interfaith harmony.

The event aims to reaffirm the values of human brotherhood, religious tolerance, and non-violence, and to promote the teachings of Narayana Guru. The meet will bring together prominent figures from various fields, including politics, religion, and social service.

Diverse Representation

The event will be attended by several dignitaries, including former Union Minister B Janardhan Poojary, Ministers Dr. G Parameshwara and Sathish Jarkiholi, and MPs Kota Srinivas Poojary and Captain Brijesh Chowta. Other notable attendees include Pannakkad Munavvar Ali Thangal, Mangaluru Bishop Dr. Peter Paul Saldanha, and Belthangady Bishop James Pattaril.

The program is being organized in collaboration with Sivagiri Mutt and Mangaluru University's Sri Narayana Guru Study Centre. The event is expected to foster greater understanding and harmony among people of different faiths and backgrounds.

Tour of Nilgiris to be flagged off from City this time

MANGALURU

The 16th Tour of Nilgiris (TfN), India's largest bicycle tour, will be held from December 14–20, 2025, starting from Mangalore for the first time. A total of 110 cyclists will ride over 700 km across Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, tackling an elevation gain of 13,500 meters. The route begins at Summer Sands Beach Resort in Mangaluru and passes through Virajpet and Sultan Bathery before reaching Ooty on Day 3. After a rest day, riders will complete three scenic loops around Ooty. This edition includes 9 women, 18 overseas participants, and 53 crew members, reflecting TfN's growth into a globally recognized cycling event.

Arecanut Imports Spark Outcry: MP Capt Brijesh Chowta Raises Concerns

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta has sounded the alarm in Parliament over the devastating impact of large-scale arecanut imports on Indian farmers. On December 1, during the Winter Session of the Lok Sabha, Chowta highlighted the plight of farmers in Karnataka and other parts of the country, who are struggling to cope with the influx of cheap and low-quality arecanuts from Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

Under the Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) system, India imposes zero import duty on products from these countries, which has led to the misuse of benefits and a surge in imports. Between September 2023 and August 2024, India imported 57% of arecanuts from Bhutan, 39% from Myanmar, and 2% from Sri Lanka. This has resulted in a sharp decline in domestic prices, causing economic hardship for lakhs of farmers who depend on arecanut cultivation for their livelihood.

This development comes after the Indian government recently took steps to support domestic farmers by amending the import policy on roasted arecanuts.

THE IMPACT ON FARMERS

- The situation is particularly dire in arecanut-growing districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru, where farmers are facing severe economic losses due to price crashes and market instability. Despite India's self-sufficiency in arecanut production, with 14 lakh tonnes produced in 2023-24, the import of inferior quality arecanuts under zero-duty rules is exacerbating the crisis.

A CALL TO ACTION

- MP Chowta has urged the Centre to remove arecanut from the list of products eligible under the duty-free import scheme and reinstate the regular customs duty structure for imports from less developed countries. He has submitted a representation to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, emphasizing the need to protect the interests of farmers.

Midday-meal Employees Stage Indefinite Protest in City, Demand Wage Hike

MANGALURU

Mid-day meal workers in Mangaluru have launched an indefinite protest, demanding a significant hike in their wages and implementation of minimum wages by the Central government. The protest, led by the CITU organization, began on Monday at the Mini Vidhana Saudha.

Protest Details

The protest was led by senior labor leader J. Balakrishna Shetty, CITU District General Secretary Sunil Kumar Bajal, and Padmavathi Shetty, honorary president of the Mid-day Meal Workers' Organization. Other notable attendees included Jayant Naik, district leader of the Beedi Workers' Organization, and Vasudev Uchchil, leader of the Community Organization.

CITU's Demands and Concerns

CITU leaders expressed their concerns about the government's apathy towards mid-day meal workers, who work for extended hours without adequate compensation. They criticized the Central government for continuously reducing its share in the mid-day meal scheme since 2014. The protesters demanded that the government take immediate action to address their grievances and provide a dignified life for mid-day meal workers

Related Issues

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government has recently revised minimum wages for various categories of workers, effective from April 1, 2025. The revised wages aim to provide a better standard of living for workers in the state.

KEY DEMANDS

THE PROTESTERS ARE DEMANDING:

- **Minimum Wage Implementation:** A minimum wage that allows them to sustain their livelihood
- **Wage Hike:** An increase in their current wage of ₹4,500, which they claim is insufficient to meet their basic needs
- **Regularization of Jobs:** Consideration as permanent employees with all statutory benefits, as recommended by the ILC
- **No Privatization:** A ban on outsourcing mid-day meal services to private agencies

Khader Pulls Up Officials Over Delay in 9/11 Land Approvals

MANGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader on Tuesday instructed Dakshina Kannada district officials to process single-site and 9/11 land applications within prescribed timelines, cautioning that prolonged delays were causing unnecessary hardship to the public.

At a review meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Khader said residents were repeatedly complaining of files remaining pending for months and being made to shuttle between government offices. He emphasised that land records must clearly specify whether access roads to single-site properties are government or private, to avoid confusion during approval.

Urban Development Department Principal Secretary Deepa Cholan said the government will soon issue a circular requiring an affidavit on road access while sanctioning single-site applications. Once layouts are cleared by the Urban Development Authority

QUICK READ

Kempegowda named director of BDCC Bank

KENGERI

Tavarekere Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society has nominated TL Kempegowda from the Bengaluru South constituency as a Director of the Bangalore District Central Cooperative (BDCC) Bank for a five-year term. Kempegowda received the official mandate letter and expressed gratitude to Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekar for supporting his appointment. Members of the cooperative society said they expect him to help strengthen services for farmers and rural customers. Kempegowda shared that he intends to focus on improving financial access and cooperative growth across the district. His nomination marks a key leadership change within the BDCC Bank.

Mohammed Firoz Sheikh wins Karnataka Krida Ratna Award

BENGALURU

Mohammed Firoz Sheikh was bestowned with the Karnataka Krida Ratna Award, instituted by the Government of Karnataka, for 2022 at a ceremony held at the State Youth Centre hall on Nrupatunga Road in Bengaluru on Monday eventing. The award is being given to sportspersons of Karnataka, who have made significant achievements in rural sports, to encourage indigenous sports. The Karnataka Krida Ratna Award, considered as the highest rural sports award of the state, was given away by the Chief Minister.

KIA to reintroduce entry fees for arrival pickups from Dec 8

The initiative aims at checking crowding and improving traffic flow; ease pressure on pickup and drop-off lanes; avoid inconvenience to passengers.

Continued from page 1

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will reintroduce entry fees for vehicles waiting in the arrival pickup zones from December 8, aiming to control crowding and improve traffic flow.

The airport operator, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), announced that all private cars will now get eight minutes of free time in the pickup lanes at both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

If a private car stays beyond this limit, it will be charged Rs 150 for 8–13 minutes and Rs 300 for 13–18 minutes. Vehicles staying longer than 18 minutes will be towed to the nearest police station, and owners will need to pay fines along with towing charges.

Commercial vehicles such as yellow-board taxis and electric cabs must use only the designated parking areas. They will have 10 minutes of free parking, after which regular parking charges apply. Taxis serving Terminal 1 must go to P3 or P4, while those serving Terminal 2 must use P2. The airport clarified that these fees do not apply to vehicles dropping passengers at the departure gates.

Rules to be obeyed

- The new rule will be in force in the arrival pickup zones from December 8.
- All private cars will now get eight minutes of free time in the pickup lanes at both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.
- Cars stay beyond the prescribed limit will be charged Rs 150 for 8–13 minutes and Rs 300 for 13–18 minutes.
- Vehicles stay longer than 18 minutes will be towed to nearest police station, and owners will need to pay fines along with towing charges.
- Yellow-board taxis and electric cabs must park only in designated areas, with 10 minutes of free parking and charges applicable thereafter.

'Long waits lead to artificial congestion'

According to BIAL, nearly 1 lakh vehicles move through the airport roads every day, causing heavy pressure on the pickup and drop-off lanes. Officials said long waits by private cars and unauthorised cabs often create artificial congestion, slow traffic, and inconvenience passengers. They said the new rules will help maintain discipline, prevent misuse of space, and improve safety. In the past few months, the airport noticed a rise in vehicles stopping in unauthorised areas or blocking ramps for quick pickups. BIAL urged passengers to use authorised services such as Airport Taxi, Ola, Uber, Quick Ride, OHM electric cabs, and WTI cabs. BIAL CEO Hari Marar said the changes aim to make airport movement smoother and more organised during rising passenger traffic.

Expedite white-topping work: MLA to officials

BENGALURU

The construction of the first white-topped road in Dasarahalli constituency, stretching from Jalahalli Cross to TVS Cross, is moving slowly, prompting urgent instructions from MLA S Muniraju to accelerate the work.

The project, costing Rs 35 crore, passes through key industrial areas and is crucial for smooth traffic flow.

During a meeting at the Peenya Industrial Association office, Muniraju reviewed the progress with officials from BBMP, BESCOM, Sewerage and Water Board, and other departments. He instructed them to complete the installation of sewer pipes, electricity cables, and water connections without further delays to avoid hampering the construction schedule.

Currently, out of the 2.5 km stretch under development, only one kilometre has been completed. The slow pace has already caused traffic congestion, which has been reported to Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Police Kavitha to find temporary solutions for commuters.

The MLA emphasized the importance of timely completion for the benefit of both residents and industries along the route.

Representatives from the traffic department, road construction officials, and Peenya Industrial Association were present during the discussions, agreeing to coordinate efforts to speed up work.

The meeting highlighted the need for proper planning, inter-departmental coordination, and continuous monitoring to ensure that the road is ready soon, helping reduce congestion and improving connectivity in the industrial belt of Bengaluru.

UG AYUSH third stray vacancy applications open

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced the schedule for the third stray vacancy round of UG AYUSH seat allocation. Candidates seeking admission to undergraduate AYUSH courses can submit fresh applications and link their NEET roll numbers (Y class only) between December 3 and December 5, KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said.

This round comes after the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) extended the admission window for UG AYUSH courses until December 10, providing students one more opportunity to secure a seat. KEA has allowed candidates to register their course preferences from December 3, 6 pm, to December 5, 1 pm.

The provisional seat allotment will be announced after 6 pm on December 5, followed by the final allotment at 2 pm on December 6. Students allotted seats must pay the required fees between December 6 and 9. After payment, candidates should download the seat guarantee card and complete admission procedures at the respective colleges.

This stray vacancy round aims to fill leftover seats and ensure eligible students do not miss the opportunity to pursue AYUSH courses. KEA has urged candidates to complete all formalities within the stipulated deadlines to secure admission smoothly and avoid any last-minute difficulties.

PG AYUSH 3rd round seat allotment begins

Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced that the third round of seat allotment for post-graduate AYUSH (PG AYUSH) courses will begin on December 4. Candidates interested in this round can also register online, KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said.

Eligible candidates who have not yet registered must complete their registration and pay the required fee by December 4. The authority has also allowed applicants to submit new preferences or update their choices from December 4 to December 6, until 11 am.

KEA will release the provisional results of this round on December 6 at 7 p.m., followed by the final results on December 8 at 11 a.m. Those allotted seats can pay their fees between December 8 and 9 and download their admit cards by December 10.

Candidates are expected to report to their respective colleges by the evening of December 10. KEA has reminded students to complete all formalities on time to secure their admission

Bengaluru East plans major road upgrades

BENGALURU

Bengaluru East Municipal Corporation is taking major steps to improve city roads and infrastructure.

Commissioner DS Ramesh and Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar recently inspected key sites, giving instructions to expand and upgrade roads connecting Hoodi Circle, Hope Farm Junction, and Kurudu Sonnehalli.

Officials have been directed to widen the 80-feet Hoodi Circle to Hope Farm road into a 150-feet model road. Land already marked for widening under RMP-2015 will be handed over to the Municipal Corporation, while legal action will be taken to acquire properties that have not yet been released. The Urban Planning and Municipal teams will review transferred and untransferred properties to ensure smooth progress.

The development plan includes constructing road medians and footpaths, relocating utility boxes from BESCOM and KPTCL, and removing unauthorized footpath encroachments. Agencies will also ensure road work is properly registered and restored to quality standards. The narrow Kurudu Sonnehalli-Hoodi road is set to become 24 meters wide, with officials coordinating with landowners to speed up acquisition and TDR-related work. The Hoodi-Sadaramangala road will widen to 60 feet, particularly near the K-Ride station, with property owners asked to provide consent for land acquisition.

Additionally, a solid waste transfer unit will be built near the BMTC bus depot in Sadaramangala. Officials were instructed to survey the property and proceed with acquisition following regulations.

The Commissioner emphasized that coordinated efforts across departments are essential to provide Bengaluru citizens with better roads and high-quality infrastructure.

Officials told to fast-track land acquisition for Ejipura flyover

BENGALURU

The Greater Bangalore Authority has directed officials to speed up land acquisition for the long-pending Ejipura flyover project.

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao issued the instructions during a review meeting held at the B.G.T.A.N.I. Limited office on Tuesday.

Rao said that key land parcels belonging to St. John's Institute, the Central Government's Central House, and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics must be acquired without delay to continue construction.

He told officers to resolve all hurdles immediately and take possession of the required land.

To widen the road and build a footpath near the busy Ejipura Signal, officials must also acquire 230 sq. m of private land.

Rao instructed the team to begin the process under legal provisions and ensure quick action. He further noted that the court has already issued directions to identify land for road widening inside St. John's campus as per the Revised Master Plan (RMP).

He asked the City Planning Department and engineering teams to jointly inspect the site and mark the road alignment at the earliest.

Chief Engineer Dr. Raghavendra Prasad said work on the 2.38-km Ejipura flyover is progressing rapidly. Out of the 762 segments required, 584 have been cast, and 454 of those have already been assembled.

Another 178 segments remain to be completed. Prasad added that once St. John's land acquisition is finished, construction will move even faster.

South Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ramesh K. N., Deputy Commissioner Gayatri Naik, Legal Cell Head Chandrashekhar Patil, Urban Planning Additional Director Girish, Chief Engineer Ravi, and other officials attended the meeting.

North Bengaluru civic body begins stray dog mapping drive

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North Municipal Corporation (BNMC) has launched fresh steps to identify and monitor stray dogs across its limits using the WVS mobile app.

Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar announced the move during the ABC Monitoring Committee meeting held at the Byatarayanapura office on Tuesday. He instructed officers to use the app while carrying out animal birth control and vaccination work, so that the exact locations of stray dogs can be recorded and tracked efficiently.

Corp operates two ABC centres

The corporation currently operates two ABC centres. The Medihalli Agrahara centre has 120 kennels, one isolation unit and one Nigha unit, while the Dasarahalli centre has 54 kennels and one Nigha unit. This year, 2,925 stray dogs have been sterilized, covering nearly 65% of the dog population in the North zone. Officials also reported that 4,350 anti-rabies vaccines are in stock. Repairs to ABC centres will be taken up under this year's grants.

As part of Supreme Court directions under Writ Petition 5/2025, notices were issued to 1,075 institutions seeking details of stray dogs on their premises. Of these, 802 institutions responded, reporting 1,042 stray dogs.

48 feeding points identified in north zone

The corporation has also identified 48 designated feeding points for stray dogs. Feeding them outside these points has been restricted to avoid conflicts and maintain hygiene. Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naeem Momin and Animal Husbandry staff attended the meeting.

'Pay salaries on time'

In another review meeting, Commissioner Sunil Kumar directed timely payment of salaries to all permanent and contractual staff. Payments for sanitation workers, crematorium staff, engineers, computer operators and marshals must be processed within the set deadlines. Instructions were also issued to ensure proper upkeep of Indira Canteens and public toilets.

Additional commissioners, joint commissioners, chief engineers and department heads were present.

SUB-URBAN PROJECT

Govt infra boost make land prices skyrocket in Bidadi

BENGALURU

Property owners in and around Bengaluru have received exciting news as a major development project moves forward.

The Karnataka government has issued notifications for the acquisition of 7,481 acres of land across nine villages near Bidadi in Ramanagara taluk for the Greater Bengaluru Comprehensive Sub-urban Project (GBCSP).

Bengaluru South and surrounding areas have seen rapid growth, leading to rising land prices in recent years. Now, with this government-backed project, property owners are expected to receive significant compensation for their land. Officials have announced that the payment rates for the acquired land will be among the highest ever set for public projects in the state. District Magistrate Yashwant V. Gurukar, overseeing the process, confirmed that the land compensation will be set at the maximum legally allowed rates. In fact, the payment for farmers and property owners has been fixed at four times the current market value, ensuring that landowners receive generous compensation.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Urban Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar emphasized that the process aims to benefit farmers and property owners, preventing any financial loss. The Greater Bengaluru Development Authority has already started coordinating with local authorities to streamline the acquisition process.

Officials say the project will boost infrastructure and support the city's rapid expansion while providing landowners with a fair, high-value settlement. The development marks another milestone in Bengaluru's suburban growth, offering opportunities for both urban planning and local residents' financial gain.

QUICK READ

World Disabled Day to be observed today

CHITRADURGA

The district administration, in collaboration with the District Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, Departments of Youth Empowerment, Sports, School Education, and various organizations working for persons with disabilities and senior citizens, will observe World Disabled Day on December 3. The event will be held at Shri Maharshi Valmiki Bhavan near Madakari Circle in Chitradurga city at 11 AM. The inauguration will be performed by Minister of Planning and Statistics and District In-Charge Minister D. Sudhakar. Several dignitaries, including MPs, MLAs, and heads of government corporations and self-help organizations, will be present. The program aims to honor and empower persons with disabilities, showcase initiatives for their welfare, and highlight contributions of civil society organizations working in the disability sector.

Notice issued for closure of 23 defunct cooperative societies

VIJAYAPURA

The Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies has initiated action to cancel the registration of 23 cooperative societies in the district that have been inactive and non-compliant with regulations. Societies such as Shri Shivashakti Credit Souharda, Shri Dhanalakshmi Micro Credit Souharda, Pavara Popular Mahila Souharda, and several others across Vijayapura, Basavan Bagewadi, Sindagi, Muddebihal, and Indi taluks are included in the list. In accordance with Section 48(2)(c) of the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1997, the societies were given a 30-day opportunity to present reasons for their inactivity. Through this public notice, objections and statements from the concerned societies are invited.

German delegation visits KSRTC as a part of their India tour

German officials visit KSRTC to experience Dhwani Spandana-OnBoard, an assistive audio-navigation system improving public transport accessibility

BENGALURU

A high-level delegation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany, visited the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) as part of their nationwide tour.

During the visit, the delegation experienced Dhwani Spandana-OnBoard, an assistive audio-navigation solution designed to enhance accessibility for persons with visual impairments. Mr. Akram Pasha IAS, Managing Director of KSRTC, briefed the delegation on the project and highlighted the national award it received from the Government of India for its contribution to inclusive public transport.

The delegation comprised Ms. Christine Toetzke, Hon'ble Director General at BMZ, Ms. Barbara Schäfer, and Mr. Christoph von Stechow. They were provided a detailed overview of the OnBoard system, developed by the Raised Lines Foundation and scaled in partnership with GIZ under the Green Urban Mobility Innovation initiative.

The BMZ team observed the system in operation on KSRTC city buses and praised the corporation for its leadership in promoting inclusive and user-centric mobility solutions. They appreciated KSRTC's proactive approach in deploying the technology across Mysuru's bus fleet, emphasizing the importance of accessibility in public transport.

Also present during the visit were representatives from the German Embassy in New Delhi, including Mr. Gottfried von Gemmingen, Ms. Pamela Baijal, Mr. Johannes Schneider, Ms. Sheenam Puri, Ms. Jasmine Kaur, as well as Ms. Julie Reviere, Country Director of GIZ. The delegation lauded KSRTC's efforts in adopting innovative solutions to make public transportation more inclusive and accessible for all.

Free helmet drive urges mandatory safety for two-wheeler riders

KOLAR

Emphasizing the importance of personal and family safety, Samrat Sabbu, founder-president of Yuvashakti Charitable Trust, urged the public to wear helmets while riding two-wheelers. At an event organized in front of Ambedkar Children's Park on Tekal Road, the trust distributed free helmets to 50 licensed riders. Speaking to the attendees, Sabbu highlighted that neglecting to wear a helmet often leads to severe head injuries and fatalities during accidents, causing immense distress to families. He noted that following the guidance of District Superintendent of Police Nikhil, the district has issued an order making helmet use mandatory for all two-wheeler riders.

The initiative was also inspired by the words of his mother, Narayanamma, who believed that while humans are born and die, life should be spent performing acts that benefit others. Reflecting this philosophy, the trust prioritized distributing helmets to differently-abled riders, senior citizens, women, and young riders.HV Subramani, vice-president of the Advocates' Association, and leader Dalit Narayanswamy praised the drive, stating that life is invaluable and riders must wear helmets as a safety measure. They called Samrat Sabbu's free helmet distribution a model initiative that should inspire others to follow suit.

Trust leaders Raju, Chetan, Chandru, Lohith, Anand, and others were present during the event, supporting the awareness campaign. The drive aims not only to provide protective gear but also to promote a culture of road safety, encouraging all two-wheeler riders in Kolar to adopt responsible and safe riding practices.

DC directs action on road safety in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

During the district-level Road Safety Committee meeting, District Collector T. Venkatesh issued strict instructions to authorities to curb hazards and enhance traffic safety across the district. He directed BESCOM officials to immediately disconnect electricity connections to unauthorized warehouses and structures along national highways, state highways, bypass roads, toll plazas, and roads under city and local bodies, which obstruct traffic and increase accident risks. Officials were instructed to verify ownership, check for illegal land use, and take strict action, including filing FIRs if electricity connections were unlawfully provided. A responsible nodal officer must be appointed in each affected institution to oversee enforcement and report compliance. Expressing strong dissatisfaction with the negligence of officials in implementing safety measures, the Collector highlighted that Chitradurga ranks fourth in the state for accidents despite repeated instructions from the National Highways Authority and public works departments to scientifically address accident-prone "black spots." Police, public works, RTO, and Panchayat Engineering officials were warned of legal action for non-compliance.

SP Ranjit Kumar Bandaru emphasized the urgency of installing reflector stickers on over 25,000 tractor-trailers, noting recent fatalities due to poor visibility at night. The Collector instructed joint surveys of accident-prone areas, and coordinated action among police, PWD, and local engineering departments to implement preventive measures, including humps, signboards, signals, and other road safety installations.

Bashettihalli Panchayat polls, Doddaballapur by-election on Dec 21

BENGALURU RURAL

The State Election Commission has announced the election schedule for the Bashettihalli Town Panchayat general elections and the Doddaballapur City Municipal Council by-election in Bengaluru Rural district, District Commissioner and District Election Officer A.B. Basavaraju said. As part of elections being held for newly formed urban local bodies, the Bashettihalli Town Panchayat will face general elections, with polling scheduled for all 19 wards. Additionally, a by-election has been announced for the Doddaballapur City Municipal Council.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAROJA HADIMANI (Old name)address; AT POST CHOLACHAGUDDA TQ BADAMI. Has changed my name: SAROJA LINGAPPA HADIMANI (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 27/11/2025 before notary public Hubli

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRANJWAL ASHWIN HUKKERI (Old name) address: 43/1 ANUSMRUTI SAPTAPUR BHARATI NAGAR DHARWAD. Has changed my name: PRANJWAL HUKKERI (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated: 28/11/2025 before notary public

---

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Forest
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Fores
Bangalore Urban Division, jarakabande kaval, kammagondanahalli jalahalli west, Bangalore-560015. Ph. 080 23343464, Email- dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ9/ಮರ ಕತ್ತಾವಣೆ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.11.2025

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of all citizens of Bengaluru that Assistant Excecutive Engineer, Public Works Department, South Sub-Division, Bangalore had submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of 246 different trees in Byagadadenahalli Gate to RTO Office, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru urban District, for the Improvement in road from under State Highway 168 Development Project. Details as given below.

Name of the project : Improvement in road Byagadadenahalli Gate to RTO Office, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru urban District, **Name of the Agency:** State Highway Development Project. **Purpose for removal of trees:** Improvement in Road Widening

Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings	**GPS details**		
	GPS Reading	**N-12.7565090°**	**E-77.7051980°**
Enumeration of trees. Total no. of trees standing in the project area	246 (Annexure - I)	**Description of Trees, Species, location, Area Map etc are uploaded in the website of Karnataka Forest Department for information of all. (www.aranya.gov. in)**	
Total no. of trees proposed to be removed	246 (Annexure - I)		

Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/ Post / Hand) Address: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Forest campus, Kammagondanahalli Jalahalli west, Bangalore-560015. Email ID - **dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in. Deadline for filing objections :** Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification* Comments should be relevant and specific to the project.

In this background suggestions and objections invited from all citizens in terms of section 8(3)(vii)of The Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act 1976.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/4161/NR/2025-26

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act],2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower/ Loan account number/ Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession
1	Thimappa, Durugamma, Bhovi Krishnappa **/NHL00480041651/** DAVANGARE	Property No 1002/142B, E Swathu No1512004009 00220195, measuring 4.2672 X 11.8872 Mts i.e 50.73 Sq Mts, Situated at Duggavathi Village, Duggavathi Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara Dist., KARNATAKA - 583137. EAST-Site no 143, WEST-House of Dilyappa, SOUTH-Site no 147, NORTH-Road	14-08-2025 & Rs.162790/-	28-11-2025
2	Riyazahmad Musa Saptasagar, Musa Tajoddin Saptasagar, Munira Musa Saptasagar, Tasmiya Riyazahmad Saptasagar, Salim Saptasagar **/NHL00260037159/** HUBLI	Residential Property bearing TMC No. 4498-1, Ward No.06, measuring 700 sq ft and building measuring 360sq ft, situated at Devaraj Nagar, Teradal, Tq: Rabakavi-Banahatti, Dist: Bagalkot, KARNATAKA - 587315. EAST-Ganapati Mane, WEST-Yakub Sangtrash, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-Budan Patel	14-08-2025 & Rs.298374/-	28-11-2025
3	Hanumavva Lakshmana Bhajantri, Manjunath Lakshmana Bhajantri, Ramshingh Pratapsingh Jamadar **/NHL00260028101/** HUBLI	Residential Property bearing CMC No.5-2-539-87, Old No. & Assessment No.RS No.174-178 Plot No.131/30, Ward No.5, total measuring 27.83sq mtr and building measuring 27.82sq mtr, situated at 2nd B Cross Road, Gadag-Betageri, Gadag, KARNATAKA - 582101. EAST-Plot No.131/31, WEST-Plot No.131/29, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-Plot No.131/39	14-08-2025 & Rs.350086/-	28-11-2025
4	Savitha Y, Yallappa O H, Hanumanthappa H **/MHL00510028725/** SHIMOGA	Property No. 283/194/11, E-Property No. 15240060 2101100293, measuring total 153.29 Sq. meter, including 64.38 Sq. meter building, situated at Udri Vaddigere Village, Udri Village Panchayath, Soraba Taluk, Shivamogga District, KARNATAKA - 577433. EAST-Panchayath Road, WEST-Survey No. 338, SOUTH-Vacant property, NORTH-Site No. 12	14-08-2025 & Rs.400130/-	28-11-2025
5	Kavya P, Papanaik C, Halibai C **/MHL00510010027/** SHIMOGA	E- Property No. 15240050260010328, measuring total 139.35 Sq. meter, including 139.35 Sq. meter building, situated at Abbalagere Village, Abbalagere Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, KARNATAKA - 577204. EAST-House of Kalacha, WEST-House of Kotreshaiah, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-House of Jagadeesh	14-08-2025 & Rs.483391/-	28-11-2025
6	Yallappa Hulamani, Bhimavva Yallappa Hulamani, Yallappa Hulamani, Shantevva Hulamani **/NHL00980029673/** BELGAUM	Residential property bearing Swattin No. 1504002032 00300110 Gram Panchayat No. 78/2, Total measuring 85.90 sq mtrs Situated at Marikatti Tq: Bailhongal Dist: Belagavi, KARNATAKA - 591125. EAST- Property of Gangappa Hulmani, WEST-Property of Gangappa Halbgol, SOUTH-Property of Babu Nilammanavar, NORTH-Road	14-08-2025 & Rs.514620/-	28-11-2025
7	Kariyappa H S, Nethravathi H, Manjamma H **/NHL00510021467/** SHIMOGA	All that the piece or parcel of site along with structure standing there on being bearing site/Property No. 96, E-Property No. 151200301100100104, measuring East-West 15.24 meter X North-South 24.384 meter, total 371.61 Sq. meter, including 209.03 Sq. meter situated at Adapura Village, Devarabelakere Village Panchayath, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka, Pin code: 577530. EAST-House of Chatnhalli Kariyappa , WEST-House of Lakshmidevi, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-Conservancy	14-08-2025 & Rs.627449/-	28-11-2025
8	Hionyath Ulla, Nasrin Banu, Fairoj N **/NHL00510010916/** SHIMOGA	All that the piece or parcel of site along with structure standing there on being bearing site/Property No. 31, E-Property No. 152400403300100417, measuring East-West 9.14 X North-South 18.28 meter, total 167.07 Sq. meter, situated at Thogarsi Village, Thogarsi Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin code: 577433. EAST-Conservancy Road , WEST-Property of Shabbir Ahammed, SOUTH-Kavuli Road, NORTH-Survey No.64	14-08-2025 & Rs.726320/-	28-11-2025
9	Roopa T A, Anand B K, Rajamma K **/NHL00930036975/** TUMKUR	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.20/27 (Old Khatha No.16/27) and E-Khatha No.1503003001 00700017 measuring East to West : 6.50 Mtrs and North to South : 11.50 Mtrs is situated at Byrapura Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka, Pin code: 561203. East-Property belongs to Gundappa, West-Road, South-Road, NORTH-Road	14-08-2025 & Rs.827390/-	28-11-2025
10	Jagadisha R, Siddamma R, Rudrappa K **/NHL00510031131/** SHIMOGA	All that the piece or parcel of site along with structure standing there on being bearing site/ A Property No. 743/1, RDPRD PID No. 151200102400220244, measuring East- West 3.35 meter X North-South 12 meter , total 42.00 Sq. meter , including 42.00 Sq . meter situated at Daginakatte village , Daginakatte Village Panchayath, Channgiri Taluk, Davanagere District, KARNATAKA - 577217. EAST-House of Rudrappa WEST-House of Rathnamma, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-Drainage	14-08-2025 & Rs.170417/-	28-11-2025
11	Nagarajappa B, Basamma G S, Vasantha N **/NHL00510028885/** SHIMOGA	All that the piece or parcel of site along with structure standing there on being bearing site/khatha/property No 154/1,E-Property No.152400502000200122, measuring East- West 5.79 meter X North-South 33.52 Meter,total 194.08 Sq.Meter including 115.80 situated at muduvala Village,Konagavaali Village Panchayth, Sivamogga taluk, Shivamogga district Karnataka state pin 577416. EAST-Road, WEST-Road, SOUTH-Property of Thimmappa s/o kenchappa, NORTH-property of Nagarajappa	14-08-2025 & Rs.516653/-	28-11-2025
12	Shivappa Gangappa Dodawadi, Veena Shivappa Dodawadi, Renuka Gangappa Dodawadi **/NHL00980014822/** BELGAUM	All that Piece and Parcel of Residential Property bearing G.PNo 18/A, RDPR Pl.D No 150400300800200026 Situated at Nagerahal Village K.K Koppa Grama Panchayt, Belagavi Block, Belgavi (D) Admeasuring 40.87 Sq.Meters (3.35* 12.19=40.87) belgavi district Karnataka State Pin 591109. EAST-Property of Basappa S/o Dodawadi, WEST-Property of Maruti Yallappa Pagad , SOUTH-Property of Basavanneppa balappa Dodawadi, NORTH-Road	14-08-2025 & Rs.520664/-	28-11-2025
13	CHAITRA M, Jayashankara P **/MHL00340030231/** MYSORE	All that Piece and Parcel of property Bearing No 1032/A2 Situated 856 4th cross at Hinkal Mysuru, Within the jurisdiction of Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru East to West : 21 feet and north to south 28 feet, Admeasuring 588 Sq. ft Mysore District State Karnataka 570017. East-Property of Suresha, West-4 shops gally after house of Pushpa, South-Property of suresha, North-Road	14-08-2025 & Rs.529482/-	28-11-2025
14	Yaseen A, Ameer Hamja, Gujar BI **/NHL00510030779/** SHIMOGA	Site/Property No.263/5,E property No.152400401 600101166,measuring total 74.32sq meter situated at Grama village,Grama panchayath,Shikaripura Taluk,Shivamogga District,Karnataka 577214. EAST-Road, WEST-Road, SOUTH-Site No.6, NORTH-Property of Renukaiah	14-08-2025 & Rs.732769/-	28-11-2025
15	Shruthi R, Ramesha R **/MHL00510029289/** SHIMOGA	All the part and parcel of the property bearing RDPR Katha no. 152400300301000008, as per Gram Panchayat record property no.484 measuring total 1003.35sq meter inbuilt area 111.48sq meter house property situated at Bandagadde,Keladi Gram Panchayat , Sagara Taluk and Shivamogga District,Karnataka Pin 577401. EAST-Road, WEST-Survey No 124, SOUTH-Granted land belongs to Venkatagiriyappa, NORTH-Site No 5	14-08-2025 & Rs.733758/-	28-11-2025

Date: 03/12/2025 | Place: KARNATAKA Sd/- Authorized Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

---

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

NAME CHANGE

I, **RAJAPPA**, S/o Munireddy, resident of No 108/6 C, Near Chowdeswari Enterprises, Kodathi, Bengaluru - 560035, Have changed my name to **RAJAPPA MUNIREDDY**, vide affidavit dated: 28.11.2025, before Notary YANKOBA, Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE (JR-DIV) AND J.M.F.C AT HOSKOTE C.MIS. NO. 438/2025

BETWEEN:
Sri, Sadiq Ali Khan and others ...Petitioner
AND
The Tahasildar
Hoskote Taluk,
Bangalore Rural Dist. ....Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE

the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **Sri, Sadiq Ali Khan and others** have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one **Late Mohiudden Ali Khan S/o Late Mohammed Ali Khan. Who died on 14-04-1962.** at Bylanarasapura Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, if any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble 2nd Addl.Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Hosakote and the date hearing **on 31-12-2025 at 11.00 A.M in Crl Mis.No.438/2025**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sheristedar
Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Hoskote.
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:
Sri. Venkatesh,
Advocate,
Address:- #3048/11, S.L.V Complex, Adjacent to Alankar Theatre, Taluk, Office, West Side, K.R.Road, Hosakote Town-562114. Ph. No. 9686838356

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, G V S R E E R A M A P P A S / o VENKATARAYAPPA, R/o Gundlapalli, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka - 561207, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as SRIRAMAPPA G V and ANITHAMMA in my minor daughter namely SAHANA G S, aged 16 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are G V SREERAMAPPA and ANITHAMMA V respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I R SHASHANK S/o H H RAMAPPA, R/o 459 3 rd Main, 5th Cross, Opposite to Muneshwara Temple, Flower Garden, Babusapalaya, Bengaluru Karnataka 560043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHASHANK RAMAPPA.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ (ಅಂಧತ್ವ ವಿಭಾಗ),
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಎಂ.ಎಂ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಫ್ರೇಜರ್‌ಟೌನ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–05, ದೂರವಾಣಿ–080–25472966

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :ಎನ್‌ಪಿಸಿಬಿವಿಐ/ಕನ್ನಡಕ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.11.2025

ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಎನ್‌ಹೆಚ್‌ಎಂ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಂಧತ್ವ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕನ್ನಡಕಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗೆ KTPP–1999 ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಎನ್‌ಪಿಸಿಬಿವಿಐ/ಕನ್ನಡಕ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2025–26	ದೃಷ್ಟಿದೋಷವುಳ್ಳ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕನ್ನಡಕಗಳು ಹತ್ತಿರದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿದೋಷವುಳ್ಳ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡಕಗಳು	ರೂ. 55,76,000/–	ರೂ. 55,760/–

ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ: **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 01.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಅಂಧತ್ವ ವಿಭಾಗ), ಹಳೇ ಟಿ.ಬಿ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ ಹಳೇ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–38, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/4151/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor,
PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Ph: **080-22133370,** website: **www.kpwd.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender Notification No. 38/2025-26 Date: 01.12.2025

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Devanahalli Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for **01 work (Rs. 30.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through **KPP Portal.**

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 09.12.2025.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP Portal **on 10.12.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

DIPR/DD-CP/4145/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayath, Chamarajanagar
Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Social Welfare
DC Office, Room No.121, Chamarajanagar

E-Mail: dswochanagards@gmail.com
Phone: 08226-222855 Dated: 29.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
No: DD:SWD:CHN:CR:2025-26

Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar District, KPPP Mentor Re-Tender Invited for the provision of Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar, Hostels Food Re-Tender Maximum Estimated Rs.1250.00 lakhs offers in the tender invited by KPP Portal, which can be downloaded online on: 26.11.2025 to 27.12.2025 Till 5.00 PM, Last Date for Submission of Tenders: 27.12.2025 Till 5.00 PM, Bid Opening Date: 29.12.2025 After 11.00 AM and more Further changes to this notification will only be published by E-Procurement.

For More Information/Details Visit **https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in/** Website Or Contact Department Social Welfare Office, Chamaraja nagar, (DATE 27.10.2025 published Food tender notification is withdraw because of technical Issues. The above mentioned tender should be continue)

Deputy Director -
Dept. of Social Welfare
Chamarajanagar

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR, 531:2026-26

QUICK READ

3 decomposed bodies recovered from shut house

Tirupati

Three bodies, including one of a toddler, were recovered from a house at Daminedu on the outskirts of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. The bodies of a couple, who were in a live-in relationship, and their son, were found in a decomposed state in Indiramma houses colony under the limits of Tiruchanur police station. Neighbours alerted the police after a foul smell emanated from the house. Police broke open the door and found the bodies. The deceased were identified as Satyaraj, Ponnagutte Nayagi, both in their 30s and their three-year-old Manish.

MP seeks withdrawal of ban on 'Jai Hind', 'Vande Mataram'

New Delhi

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi on Tuesday wrote to Chairman CP Radhakrishnan, urging him to withdraw the directive that bars Members of Parliament from raising slogans such as 'Jai Hind' and 'Vande Mataram' inside the House. In her letter, Chaturvedi said the notification has triggered serious concern among MPs, adding that these expressions are deeply connected to the country's identity. She wrote, It has come to our attention that the ban on slogans 'Jai Hind' and 'Vande Mataram', through a notification by the Rajya Sabha, has caused significant concern among Members.

TN steps up final preparations for 'Karthigai Deepam'

Chennai

With lakhs of devotees set to descend on Tiruvannamalai for Wednesday's Maha Deepam, the Chief Minister Stalin-led Tamil Nadu government has intensified festival arrangements across the temple town. Public Works Minister E.V. Velu on Tuesday reviewed the final leg of preparations along the Girivalam path, temporary bus stands, parking areas and essential public facilities to ensure seamless movement and safety for pilgrims. The minister inspected the temporary bus terminals and assessed the functioning of drinking water pipelines, motor systems and distribution units installed by the Municipality and Highways Department.

'Bihar yet to draw Jal Jeevan Mission funds despite ₹770.95 cr allocation'

Centre revealed Bihar has not withdrawn Jal Jeevan Mission funds for three years despite significant central allocation since 2019

NEW DELHI

Since 2019-20, the Centre has released a total of ₹770.95 crore to Bihar under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), but the State government has not drawn any of these funds from 2021-22 onwards, according to data shared by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on Tuesday.

The information was provided by Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil in response to a question raised in the Rajya Sabha.

Patil explained that under JJM, funds are released directly to states and Union Territories, while district-wise

utilisation details are not maintained at the central level. Despite consistent central allocations over the years, Bihar has failed to draw funds for the last three financial years, he noted.

The minister added that an online Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) has been developed as part of the mission. This digital platform enables states and UTs to upload water quality monitoring and surveillance data, including sample collection records and water testing results, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in drinking water supply monitoring.

In a separate reply in the Upper House, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary provided updates on the Modified Parbati–Kalisindh–Chambal (MPKC) link proposal. The project aims to optimise the utilisation of water resources within the Chambal River system and has been developed following extensive discussions with Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The proposal integrates components suggested by Madhya Pradesh in the Kuno, Parbati, and Kalisindh sub-basins with elements of Rajasthan's Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project was signed on January 28, 2024, followed by a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on December 5, 2024, between the Union Government and the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

J&K cops file charge sheet in Rs 38 lakh LPG fraud case

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch said on Tuesday that it has filed a charge sheet in the court pertaining to the Rs 38 lakh LPG fraud case.

A statement by Crime Branch said, the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) has filed a charge sheet in Case FIR No. 21/2022 under sections 420, 421, 467, 468, and 120-B RPC against Zahid Bashir Shagoo, son of Bashir Ahmad Shagoo, resident of Koker Bazar, Srinagar, presently residing at House No. 2, Indrabi Colony, Narbal, District Budgam, and Shugufta, wife of Zahid Bashir Shagoo, resident of Koker Bazar, Srinagar, presently residing at House No. 2, Indrabi Colony, Narbal, District Budgam. The charge sheet has been submitted before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam.

The case originated from a written complaint wherein it was alleged that the accused Zahid Bashir Shagoo deceitfully promised to secure a licence for the establishment of a gas agency, for which the complainant paid an amount of Rs 38 lakh. It was further alleged that the accused later provided fabricated and forged documents purporting to be genuine licences.

Accordingly, a Preliminary Verification was initiated by the Crime Branch Kashmir. During the enquiry, the allegations were found to be prima facie established, revealing that the accused Zahid Bashir Shagoo, in criminal conspiracy with his wife Shugufta, grabbed lakhs of rupees from the complainant on the pretext of providing a gas agency along with extension counters. Thus, they intentionally defrauded the complainant by issuing forged documents, the statement read.

Consequently, offences punishable under Sections 419, 420, 468, 471, and 120-B RPC were found to be made out. The subsequent investigation has reinforced the evidence of criminal conduct, leading to the formal filing of the charge sheet for judicial determination.

LS adjourned twice amid Opposition uproar over SIR

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the second time on Tuesday—this time until 2 p.m.—after Opposition members refused to allow proceedings to continue without a discussion on the ongoing Special Intensive Review (SIR) of electoral rolls. Persistent sloganeering and protests forced the Chair to halt the session once again.

Opposition MPs trooped into the well of the House, raising slogans such as SIR pe charcha karo and Vote chor, gaddi chhod, demanding an immediate and exclusive debate on alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise being conducted across 12 states and union territories.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, speaking amid the uproar, urged the Opposition to allow the House to function. We have repeatedly urged for peaceful discussions during the Winter Session. There are many issues before the nation, and they cannot be ignored. It is not right for a few parties to disrupt proceedings like this, he said.

Commenting on the Opposition's response after its defeat in the Bihar Assembly election, Rijiju added, there's always victory and loss in a democracy. I have also lost elections. Even Atal Ji lost elections. But bringing frustration into Parliament is not right. By doing this, you are losing the trust of the people.

Reiterating the government's stand, he said the Centre is ready to discuss every issue relating to the nation and appealed to members not to resort to disruptions.

Despite this, protests continued, leading to the adjourn-

ment. Earlier in the day, the Lok Sabha was adjourned until noon for similar reasons, as Opposition members remained firm on their demand for a detailed discussion on the SIR process, which they claim is opaque and marred by irregularities.

The Winter Session has begun on a stormy note. On Monday, the House witnessed heated protests over allegations of vote chori in the recently concluded Bihar elections alongside concerns over the SIR exercise.

PUBG-addicted man kills wife for asking him to find job

REWA

In a shocking incident from Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, a 24-year-old woman identified as Neha Patel was allegedly killed by her husband after she asked him to focus on finding work instead of spending hours playing the mobile game PUBG.

The accused, identified as Ranjeet Patel, reportedly strangled her with a towel late on Saturday night and then fled the scene.

According to police, the couple had been married for only six months. Investigators said the accused was addicted to PUBG, and frequent arguments had taken place between the couple over his unemployment and gaming habits.

After the murder, the accused allegedly messaged Neha's brother-in-law,

claiming he had killed her and asking the family to take her back. The family rushed to the couple's residence, found Neha unresponsive, and informed the police. She was declared dead at the scene.

DSP Headquarters Udit Mishra confirmed the murder and said a case has been registered.

The body was found inside the house with visible strangulation marks on the neck. The husband is absconding. Preliminary investigation suggests frequent disputes over his addiction to PUBG. Statements have been recorded, and efforts to arrest the accused are underway, he said.

Neha's family has also alleged that the accused and his relatives regularly demanded dowry. They claimed her husband sought a car and continued pressuring her even after the family had settled earlier financial demands.

Speaking to reporters, Neha's brother Sher Bahadur Patel expressed frustration over what he called slow action.

No arrest has been made yet. My sister was married on May 25 this year. The accused kept demanding dowry and recently stopped working. When she asked him to find a job, he fought with her and killed her. After murdering her, he texted my brother-in-law and said, 'Take her back, I have killed her.

Opposition SIR stir a blot on democracy: BJP

NEW DELHI

As Opposition parties intensified noisy protests in Parliament on Tuesday demanding an immediate discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, senior BJP leaders and allies launched a strong counteroffensive, accusing them of misleading the public and creating unnecessary controversy.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh delivered one of the sharpest attacks, calling the Opposition's protest a blot on democracy. Speaking to reporters, he alleged the agitation was pure theatrics. This is all drama and nothing else. When elections happen in Bengal, there is no vote theft; when a government is formed in Karnataka, there is no vote theft; when a government is formed in Himachal Pradesh, there is no vote theft. These people are shameless and a blot on democracy, he said. Singh reiterated that the government remains fully prepared for a parliamentary debate.

In Bihar, Minister Dilip Jaiswal rejected the Opposition's criticism of SIR, asserting that the process had been fully validated. The Opposition shamelessly talks about SIR. When SIR was implemented in Bihar, more than seven crore voters accepted it,

BJP leaders accused the opposition of spreading misinformation and creating controversy for political gain

and the Hon'ble Supreme Court also thoroughly reviewed it and found SIR to be valid, he said. He added that the Congress and its INDIA bloc partners were undermining democracy by continuing to question the process.

RLM National President Upendra Kushwaha also accused the Opposition of inventing an issue for political leverage. He pointed out that despite repeated allegations of vote theft by the RJD and Congress during the Bihar elections, no evidence ever supported those claims. Calling the uproar a fuss over a useless issue, he said the Opposition lacked any substantial matter to raise.

Echoing similar sentiments, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya remarked, those who are opposing SIR, people are opposing them.

Bengal govt retaining deceased voters' names for poll gains: Adhikari

KOLKATA

Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Tuesday levelled serious allegations against the state government, claiming it is attempting to retain the names of deceased voters in the electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise for future misuse.

In a social media post, the BJP leader accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of intentionally preventing voter list corrections ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Adhikari alleged that the administration was working to ensure that names of dead voters were not deleted, enabling Trinamool Congress workers to potentially exploit these entries during polling. To support his claims, he shared an audio clip purportedly featuring a booth-level officer (BLO) from Falta in South 24 Parganas district. In the clip, the official is heard claiming that senior authorities instructed BLOs not to delete names of deceased persons without official death certificates. The IANS, however, has not verified the authenticity of the audio.

According to Adhikari, BLOs were told that even when family members had signed declarations on enumeration forms confirming a person's death, those forms should not be uploaded. The BLOs are being told to keep the forms at bay without uploading them. Why? So that they can be swindled later. This allegation is very serious, he claimed.

He further alleged that Trinamool Congress musclemen were visiting households and threatening people to prevent death certificates from being handed over to BLOs, thereby obstructing the deletion of deceased voters' names. There is a hidden attempt to keep dead voters in the voter list by using BDOs and AROs, threatening them with goons, he said.

Couple set ablaze; man dies, woman critical

JAIPUR

In a shocking case of violence in the Mokhampura area near Jaipur, where a couple was allegedly tied and set on fire with petrol, the man, identified as 25-year-old Kailash Gurjar, succumbed to his burns.

His girlfriend, Soni Gurjar, remains in critical condition with approximately 45 per cent burns.

According to Mokhampura SHO Suresh Kumar Gurjar, Kailash, a resident of Barolav village, who received 60 per cent burns, died during treatment at SMS Hospital.

Preliminary investigation suggested that the woman's relatives carried out the crime.

Police have arrested her uncle-in-law, Birdichand Gurjar (57), and brother-in-law, Ganesh Gurjar (41), in connection with the crime.

Based on statements from the injured woman and the deceased before his death, Soni had gone to meet Kailash at around 2 a.m. on Friday.

The accused allegedly followed her, tied the couple to the scaffold, and set them on fire using petrol. Both individuals were reportedly in a relationship despite family tension. Kailash was married, while Soni is a widow whose husband died six years ago.

According to investigators, tensions between the families escalated after a love marriage last year between Soni's brother-in-law's son and Kailash's brother's daughter, which led to bitterness and a complete breakdown in communication.

'VIOLATION OF PRIVACY'

Priyanka Vadra terms 'Sanchar Saathi' a snooping app

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday criticised the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s decision to mandate pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi App on all new mobile phones, calling it a violation of privacy and a step toward authoritarian governance.

This comes as the DoT has issued a directive requiring all mobile importers and manufacturers to ensure that the app is pre-installed on new handsets within 90 days.

The Sanchar Saathi platform is intended to help users report mobile fraud, block

lost devices, and verify SIM records. However, the directive has triggered debate over privacy and surveillance concerns among citizens.

Reacting to the move, Congress MP Priyanka Vadra told reporters, it's a snooping app. It's ridiculous. Citizens have the right to privacy. This isn't just about snooping on telephones — overall, they are turning this country into a dictatorship in every possible form.

She also accused the government of suppressing democratic processes.

You're asking why Parliament isn't functioning. It's because they aren't letting it function. It's very easy to blame the Opposition, but they are stopping healthy discussions. That is not democracy. For democracy to survive, open discussion must be allowed, she said.

Raising further concerns, she added, there is a fine line between making fraud reporting easier and monitoring everything citizens do on their phones. Yes, cyber security is necessary, but that doesn't justify invading every citizen's device.

Other Congress leaders echoed her criticism. MP Imran Masood questioned the government's intentions, saying, where are you taking the country? Are we heading toward North Korea? Will the government decide how people live, eat, or even cut their hair? This is an intrusion into people's private lives.

QUICK READ

'Over 700 manufacturers under intense scrutiny'

New Delhi

More than 700 cough syrup manufacturers have been under intense scrutiny, following a spate of deaths in children in Madhya Pradesh after consuming the contaminated syrups, Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel told the Parliament on Tuesday. As many as 26 children from Chhindwara, Pandhurna, and Betul districts of Madhya Pradesh, mostly under the age of five, reportedly died due to kidney failure after they were administered the Coldrif cough syrup. More than 700 cough syrup manufacturers have been subjected to an intense audit in coordination with state authorities.

Rajasthan renames Raj Bhavan as Lok Bhavan

Jaipur

Rajasthan has officially renamed its Raj Bhavan as Lok Bhavan, becoming the ninth state in the country to adopt the new nomenclature. Governor Haribhau Bagde issued the notification, which came into effect on December 1. Announcing the decision, Governor Bagde said the new name represents a shift from a colonial legacy toward the spirit of Indian democracy. The Governor stated that renaming the Raj Bhavan to Lok Bhavan is a significant step toward moving away from a colonial mindset and embracing democratic Indian values.

Over 1,825 MW rooftop solar installed on 91,574 govt buildings

New Delhi

An aggregate 1,825.62 MW capacity rooftop solar has been installed on 91,574 government buildings of various Central ministries and department and states/UTs (till November 4), the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had requested all states/UTs to issue necessary directions to all department and institutions of states/UTs for utilisation of vacant rooftops of their buildings for installation of solar panels. All Central Government Ministries/Departments have also been requested to issue necessary directions for installation of rooftop solar plants on all buildings owned by them.

India never provokes, but do not leave evil doers: Rajnath Singh

The Defence Minister declared India peaceful yet uncompromising, asserting firm retaliation against any force threatening national security.

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday delivered a strong and unequivocal message to Pakistan, asserting that while India believes in peace, it will not hesitate to neutralise any threat to its sovereignty. Speaking at a Sardar Sabha event in Vadodara during the 'Unity March' organised by MY Bharat to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Singh underlined India's commitment to maintaining harmony while standing ready to defend its borders decisively.

"India is a peace-loving nation. We provoke no one. But if provoked, we do not spare anyone who casts an evil eye

on our motherland," he said, in a stern warning directed at the western neighbour.

Singh highlighted that Operation Sindoor stands as a definitive example of India's resolve to respond forcefully to those who fail to understand the language of peace and goodwill. He lauded the armed forces for their exemplary courage throughout the operation, adding that the world now recognises India's growing military capability and strategic confidence.

'Max governance' helped India become 4th largest economy'

Singh also highlighted India's economic ascent, noting that the country has climbed from the world's 11th-largest economy in 2014 to the 4th position today. He credited this growth to the government's philosophy of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', which he said has accelerated cultural, social, spiritual and economic unity, moving the nation closer to the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. On defence progress, the minister emphasised significant strides in modernisation, echoing Patel's long-standing priorities.

Drawing historical parallels, Singh compared India's current approach to combating terrorism with Sardar Patel's uncompromising leadership during the integration of Hyderabad. He said Patel's vision of 'One India, Best India' continues to guide the country's path under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the abrogation of Article 370 as a pivotal step in strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's integration with the national mainstream.

HP, TN Sainik schools yet to sign MoU with state govts: Centre

NEW DELHI

Sainik School Sujanpur Tira, Himachal Pradesh and Sainik School Amaravathinagar, Tamil Nadu, are among six Sainik Schools that are yet to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with their respective state governments, according to Ministry of Defence data on Tuesday.

Sainik Schools sign MoAs with state governments to define the division of responsibilities and secure the necessary resources for the school establishment and operation. The schools are a joint venture of the Ministry of Defence and the respective state governments. The six schools which are yet to sign MoAs include Sainik School Nagrota, J&K; Sainik School Kunjpura, Haryana; Sainik School Imphal, and Sainik School Bhubaneshwar.

The Ministry opened a web portal for registration as part of the government's initiative to set up 100 new Sainik schools in partnership with state government/NGOs/private sector under the Sainik School Society.

DyCM Harsh Sanghavi praised their commitment to preserving Gujarat's heritage and strengthening community identity.

115 cultural guardians honoured with Atulya Varaso Award

AHMEDABAD

In a ceremony celebrating Gujarat's rich cultural heritage, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Sunday honoured 115 individuals devoted to preserving the state's historical legacy.

The event, held in Sector 12 of Gandhinagar and organised by Atulya Varaso, recognised these contributors with the prestigious Atulya Varaso Identity Award 2025. Sanghavi described the awardees as soldiers of culture who play a vital role in safeguarding the identity and traditions of Gujarat.

Addressing the gathering, Sanghavi said the event was not merely an award function but a sacred effort to revive our identity, our roots, and our sense of belonging. He lauded Atulya Varaso's wide-ranging initiatives — from heritage walks and literary outreach to cultural

awareness programmes — that have successfully connected people across generations with Gujarat's rich historical past. Emphasising the importance of collective responsibility in preserving heritage spaces, he said cleanliness and care for historical sites must go beyond the duties of sanitation workers.

Preserving our historical treasures requires all of us. Even a simple habit of not littering can bring transformative change, he said, assuring full government support through resources and strategic planning to strengthen such initiatives.

Sanghavi also encouraged the Atulya Varaso team to embark on a new mission: training at least 10,000 people across Gujarat by the next Bestu Varsh to understand and articulate the significance of the Vikram Samvat calendar. Every Gujarati must know why we celebrate the new year after Diwali and should be able to proudly pass on that knowledge, he added.

The ceremony witnessed participation from several distinguished personalities, including former Chief Secretary P.K. Laheri, Gujarat Vidyapith Vice-Chancellor Dr. Harshad Patel, Gujarat Sahitya Academy's Jayendrasingh Jadav, Savani Heritage Conservation MD Rambhai Savani, and Atulya Varaso founder Kapil Thakkar, along with numerous art enthusiasts and awardees.

Putin's India visit to boost trade, nuclear ties: Kremlin

NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to India will deliver significant outcomes across strategic, defence, energy and trade sectors, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday. The visit, he said during an online media briefing organised at the India Habitat Centre here, is set to further consolidate a relationship rooted in mutual understanding, partnership and a shared vision of global affairs based on the rule of law.

Peskov underscored the historical depth of the partnership, noting that Moscow has stood shoulder to shoulder with India in crucial phases of its growth.

He emphasised that strategic and defence cooperation remain sensitive areas, but reaffirmed Russia's readiness to share its expanded expertise in various domains, including emerging technologies.

Energy and nuclear cooperation are expected to feature prominently in the talks between President Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Peskov said Russia continues to supply energy to India

at competitive prices, calling it a mutual benefit.

J&K DyCM moves Delhi HC over defamatory online content

JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary has approached the Delhi High Court with a defamation suit seeking the removal of online content that allegedly carries sexual undertones and suggests an improper relationship with a woman. The material, widely circulated across social media platforms, also prompted authorities in Jammu & Kashmir to reinvestigate the broader role of digital media and independent citizen journalism after the issue was raised in the Legislative Assembly.

Choudhary, a National Conference (NC) legislator and prominent political figure in the region, has sought a permanent and mandatory injunction against what he termed as malicious and defamatory posts on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. However, the petition encountered immediate challenges during its preliminary hearing on Tuesday before Justice Amit Bansal.

Justice Bansal noted crucial gaps in the suit, observing that the Deputy Chief Minister had not submitted transcripts of the allegedly defamatory videos or recordings. Without this material, he said, the court could not assess the nature of the allegations or determine whether the content met the threshold for defamation. Expressing his concern, the judge remarked that he

Surinder Choudhary seeks removal of alleged defamatory online content amid court scrutiny over missing transcripts.

was puzzled by the absence of essential evidence in the petition.

Choudhary's counsel informed the court that much of the controversial content was nearly two years old and that several of the URLs referred to news agencies that had simply reshared content originating on social media. Taking note of the submissions, the court directed Choudhary to file detailed transcripts of all cited recordings and videos. The case will next be heard on January 13, 2026.

In addition, the court instructed Google LLC and Meta Platforms to provide information about the Facebook pages and YouTube channels that uploaded the disputed content, enabling the Deputy Chief Minister to add them as defendants in the lawsuit if required.

BLO dies in UP's Hathras, family blames it on work pressure

HATHRAS

A Booth Level Officer (BLO) working under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise died in Hathras of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, with his family alleging that excessive work pressure drove him into depression.

The incident has heightened concerns about the workload and mental strain faced by officials involved in the exercise.

Deceased Kamalkant Sharma was a government school teacher from Brahmanpuri. According to his family, Sharma collapsed outside his home on Tuesday morning while leaving for SIR work. They rushed him to Aligarh for treatment, but he died midway.

His wife, Neelam Sharma, claimed that her husband had been under extreme stress for several weeks due to the workload assigned to him.

"He was normal otherwise, but he repeatedly said he was under pressure to complete the SIR work. I tried telling him not to take stress, but the workload kept increasing. This morning, he was again leaving for SIR duties when he suddenly collapsed," she said.

District Magistrate Atul Vats along with the SP visited his house. The body was later taken into custody and sent for post-mortem. Vats said they got the information around 11 am that the BLO was taken to a hospital and passed away on the way. The body is now undergoing examination. As immediate support, the district administration will donate one day's salary to the family, and his children's education will be taken care of by the administration."

HELPING HAND

Govt showcases 'Jiyo Parsi' digital upgrade at Mumbai workshop

MUMBAI

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) on Tuesday organised an advocacy and outreach workshop at Mumbai University to promote the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, an initiative aimed at supporting the Parsi community in increasing its population.

The event, held in collaboration with the Maharashtra State Minority Development Department, focused on enhancing awareness of assisted childbirth support, family welfare interventions, and recent digital upgrades to the scheme.

According to an official statement, the workshop highlighted the scheme's digital transformation, which now enables beneficiaries to complete key processes — including biometric authentication — through a dedicated mobile application. This feature allows Parsi families to conveniently complete formalities from their homes, improving accessibility, transparency, and service delivery.

The ministry said the technological upgrade underscores the Government of India's commitment to leveraging digital tools for efficient last-mile delivery and empowering citizens with seamless public services. Senior officials, including Alok Verma, DDG, and Ranjeet Kumar, Senior Director (NIC), MoMA, interacted with community members, stakeholders, and beneficiaries to discuss ongoing efforts to make the programme more citizen-centric and effective.

As part of the government's broader agenda of minority welfare and economic empowerment, the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) also participated in the workshop. NMDFC representatives briefed Parsi community members on low-interest loans and financial assistance available for entrepreneurship, start-ups, and small businesses, encouraging them to utilise these schemes for sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), which has been engaged by the ministry to conduct a comprehensive study on the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, presented key findings from its research. The insights offered evidence-based perspectives on demographic trends within the Parsi community, the scheme's impact so far, and recommendations to strengthen future interventions.

No major infiltration from B'desh; Tripura witnessing exfiltration: Saha

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has said that there is currently no major infiltration into the state from Bangladesh, but exfiltration is now taking place from the Indian side. Tripura shares an 856-km long border with Bangladesh, surrounded on three sides by the neighbouring country, making it highly vulnerable to smuggling and other cross-border crimes.

CM Saha said that while in the past infiltration was a major issue, the situation has now reversed.

There is no infiltration from across the border. Tripura is now witnessing exfiltration. The BSF has been smoothly sending back the infiltrators to their country after consultations with the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) and the concerned authorities, following all legal procedures, the Chief Minister told the media on Monday night after attending the BSF's Diamond Jubilee Raising Day.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have taken a firm stand against infiltration, adding that guarding the international border in Tripura continues to be challenging due to its geographical location, difficult terrain and other factors.

There are some patches along the border which are not yet fenced; the BSF remains extra alert in these locations. The BSF has been doing a commendable job in guarding the international border,' said CM Saha, who also holds the Home portfolio.

The Chief Minister added that the BSF, in coordination with state security forces and the state government, is taking all necessary steps from time to time to secure the border.

According to a BSF official, during the current year (2025), the force apprehended 57 Rohingya illegal migrants (RIMs), 628 Bangladeshi nationals and 280 Indian nationals during separate operations. The BSF also seized various drugs and contrabands worth Rs 51.65 crore during the year (2025).

QUICK READ

Khaleda Zia showing steady improvement: Docs

Dhaka

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is receiving proper treatment and recovering well, her doctor AZM Zahid Hossain said on Tuesday. Speaking outside Evercare Hospital, he shared that a medical board of specialists from Bangladesh, the UK, and the US is monitoring her care. Khaleda, admitted on November 23 and later shifted to the CCU, is suffering from heart and lung infections along with long-standing health issues. The BNP thanked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for wishing her a speedy recovery and offering support. Doctors remain hopeful she will recover soon.

Deadly attack on convoy kills two officers

Islamabad

Two police personnel were killed on Tuesday when unknown attackers opened fire on the Miranshah Assistant Commissioner's convoy in Mamashkhel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Officials said AC Shah Wali and a police officer died, and two others were injured. The attackers later set the police vehicle on fire before escaping. Security forces have launched a search operation. The region has seen rising violence, including a recent suicide blast in Lakki Marwat that killed a head constable. Pakistan has reported a sharp increase in militant attacks over the past year, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Japan debates restart of major nuclear plant

Kashiwazaki

A regional assembly in Niigata has begun discussions on restarting the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, the world's largest, with a vote expected by December 22. The TEPCO-run plant has been shut since the 2011 Fukushima disaster. The company hopes to restart Unit 6 in January, saying Japan needs nuclear power to cut fuel imports. Safety drills are underway, but some residents fear evacuation issues in case of an accident. The restart could boost power for the Tokyo region by 2%. Japan has reopened 14 reactors so far, while demand grows due to data centers and AI-related businesses.

Macron heads to China amid rising trade tensions

His goal is to push for fairer trade conditions, stronger market access and greater co-op in tech while avoiding moves that could spark a wider trade conflict.

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron is heading to China this week for a three-day state visit, as Europe tries to balance its growing concerns over Beijing with its deep economic ties to the world's second-largest economy.

The visit, which will take place from December 3 to 5, includes stops in Beijing and Chengdu. Macron's goal is to push for fairer trade conditions, stronger market access and greater cooperation in technology while avoiding moves that could spark a wider trade conflict.

Analysts say Macron must deliver a careful message: Europe will respond to rising economic and security challenges from China but does not want a damaging breakdown in relations. His trip follows tense EU-China talks earlier this year, when European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen warned that ties had reached a critical turning point. European leaders, including Britain's Keir Starmer and Germany's Friedrich Merz, are also preparing China visits next year.

European industries have been hit hard by cheap Chinese exports, especially steel,

while Europe worries about China's lead in electric vehicles and control over rare earth materials. With global trade shaken by U.S. tariffs, Beijing is positioning itself as a key business partner and hopes to ease European fears about its support for Russia and its state-driven industrial model.

Before the trip, Macron's advisers said he would urge China to increase domestic consumption and share technological gains with Europe. The EU is also drafting a new economic security doctrine that could lead to tougher trade measures. Macron is expected to avoid the diplomatic missteps of his 2023 visit, when comments on Taiwan stirred U.S. criticism. This time, he plans to stress the importance of stability and urge China not to escalate tensions.

Judge-led probe ordered after deadly Hong Kong fire

Officials say substandard plastic mesh and insulation hastened the blaze across seven towers; with 4,000 residents, about 30 missing and bodies found during escape attempts

HONG KONG

Hong Kong has launched a judge-led independent probe to investigate the city's deadliest fire in decades, which claimed at least 156 lives at the Wang Fuk Court housing complex.

Chief Executive John Lee announced that the committee will examine what caused the fire and why it spread so quickly. This decision follows police arrests of 15 people on suspicion of manslaughter and 12 others in a linked corruption investigation.

Officials said poor renovation materials, including unsafe plastic mesh and insulation foam, helped the flames move rapidly across seven towers. More than 4,000 people lived in the complex, and investigators are still searching two severely damaged buildings. Around 30 people remain missing, with bodies found in stairwells and on rooftops where residents tried to escape the smoke. The tragedy has sparked calls for transparency, though authorities warned against "exploiting the disaster." A student activist was detained and released, and reports suggest two others are under sedition investigation. Rights groups say the government must not silence people seeking accountability.

Residents had previously raised concerns in 2024 about the renovation mesh used on scaffolding, saying it seemed unsafe. Tests later confirmed that the materials did not meet fire-safety standards and had been placed in areas difficult for inspectors to reach. Officials also said some fire alarms were not working.

Thousands across the city have paid tribute to the victims, including ten domestic helpers from Indonesia and the Philippines. Ceremonies are planned in London, Taipei and Tokyo. A memorial on Tuesday saw hundreds praying and offering lotus-shaped paper tributes.

Search work continues in the worst-hit towers, where rooms are charred and filled with debris. Nearly 1,500 residents have been moved to temporary homes, while many others stay in hostels. More than 60 pets died, though over 200 animals were rescued.

Lee calls for ending hostility, pursuing trustful coexistence, rejecting forcible unification and favoring dialogue and cooperative progress.

PEACE CALL RENEWED BETWEEN DIVIDED KOREAN NEIGHBOURS

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has called for the restoration of communication channels with North Korea.

He said reopening these lines would be the first step toward "peaceful coexistence" between the two nations, which have remained divided for more than seven decades.

His message came during the launch event of the 22nd Peaceful Unification Advisory Council in Seoul, where he stressed that the journey toward unification may take decades or even centuries, but must still be pursued with patience and hope.

President Lee said the most important task before both Koreas is to end long-standing hostility and build a fresh relationship based on trust and peaceful living. He made it clear that South Korea does not aim for unification by force or absorption. Instead, he wants progress through dialogue, understanding, and cooperation.

Since taking office in June, the Lee administration has taken several steps to calm tensions. It stopped border loudspeaker broadcasts and urged civic groups to stop sending anti-North Korea leaflets. These moves were meant to show goodwill and reduce friction along the heavily guarded border.

However, North Korea has not yet responded to Seoul's efforts. Last month, South Korea proposed military talks to discuss issues around the military demarcation line (MDL), but Pyongyang offered no reply. Earlier on November 17, South Korea's military again suggested talks after North Korean troops crossed the MDL in separate incidents. Deputy Defence Minister Kim Hong-cheol said such talks were needed to prevent accidental clashes and reduce tension.

Though North and South Korea share deep cultural roots, their political paths have remained sharply divided. President Lee hopes renewed communication can slowly bridge this long-standing gap.

Thousands of Afghan refugees forced back home

KABUL

More than 3,000 Afghan refugees were forced to return from Pakistan and Iran in a single day, a senior Taliban official said on Tuesday.

Taliban deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat shared a report from the High Commission for Addressing Migrants' Issues, saying that 580 families, a total of 3,164 people, came back to Afghanistan on Monday. They entered the country through crossings in Kandahar, Helmand, Herat, Nimroz and Nangarhar. Fitrat said authorities helped 962 families reach their home provinces and gave humanitarian aid to 557 families. Telecom companies also distributed 663 SIM cards to returning refugees.

Pope calls Lebanon to unite for peace

BEIRUT

Pope Leo XIV closed his first overseas journey as the head of the Catholic Church with a strong call for unity and healing in Lebanon.

Speaking to a crowd of nearly 150,000 people gathered on Beirut's waterfront, he urged the country's many communities to look past political and ethnic divisions and work together to rebuild a nation worn down by conflict, crisis and deep economic hardship.

He reminded the public that Lebanon's strength has always come from its diversity and urged everyone to "cast off the armour" of division and restore the country's lost glory.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Pope visited the site of the 2020 Beirut port explosion, a disaster that killed more than 200 people and left huge destruction.

He prayed among the rubble, laid a wreath and met survivors and families of victims. Many held photos of loved ones as they spoke with him. One grieving woman embraced the Pope after asking permission, and he offered each family a rosary as a symbol of comfort.

The Pope's visit to Lebanon followed three days of travel that began in Turkey, where he repeated his message of peace for the wider Middle East. He warned that continued conflict places humanity's future at risk. He appealed to religious leaders from all sects to come together and political leaders to continue peace efforts.

Emergency declared as winter weather hits New Jersey

TRENTON

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has declared a state of emergency for five northwestern counties as a winter storm brings snow, sleet and freezing rain to the region.

The order, which began at 5 am on Tuesday, covers Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties. The governor warned residents that the weather could create dangerous travel conditions and urged everyone to remain alert, avoid unnecessary travel and follow all safety guidelines shared by state agencies.

State transportation crews began preparing overnight to treat roads and respond to any early trouble spots caused by the storm.

According to the governor's office, Executive Order No. 406 will stay in effect until officials decide that the public is no longer at risk. Residents have been advised to stay informed by checking ready.nj.gov for updated weather.

Putin claims major victory in captured Pokrovsk

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised what he says is the full capture of the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, calling it a major step toward Moscow's broader war goals. In a video released by the Kremlin, Putin thanked his top commanders and said the city's fall would help the military move forward with tasks set at the beginning of Russia's nearly four-year campaign in Ukraine. Pokrovsk, once a key logistics hub for the Ukrainian army, has faced intense fighting since mid-2024 and is now heavily damaged.

Russia claims the capture gives its forces a stronger route toward the Ukrainian-held cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. Moscow's long-stated goal is to seize all of the Donbas region, which includes Donetsk and Luhansk.

Australia launches inquiry into military sexual violence

CANBERRA

The Australian government has announced a major step toward addressing sexual violence within the country's military.

On Tuesday, Defence Personnel and Veterans Affairs Minister Matt Keogh said the government will set up an independent inquiry to examine how the Australian Defence Force (ADF) handles sexual violence cases. Speaking at the National Press Club, he said such violence harms individuals, weakens the organisation, and has damaged trust in the ADF's ability to protect its own members.

Keogh said public consultation has begun to decide the terms of reference for the inquiry, which is expected to start in mid-2026. He admitted that despite past attempts to improve the system, many problems still remain. "Lots has been done but people, especially women, are still experiencing this

behaviour," he said. He stressed that the government will not avoid confronting this issue and that ADF members who commit sexual violence should expect dismissal.

The inquiry was one of the central recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Its final report in September 2024 revealed that 2,007 serving or former ADF personnel died by suicide between 1985 and 2021. The commission also heard many accounts of bullying and physical or sexual violence that contributed to severe mental distress and suicidal thoughts among members. It further recommended mandatory training for ADF leaders on handling sexual misconduct and stronger systems for investigating complaints.

Adding to the pressure for reform, a Brisbane law firm launched a major class action lawsuit against the ADF in October, accusing it of widespread and systemic sexual violence, harassment and discrimination. Lawyers told a court in Sydney that more than 1,000 women who served between 2003 and 2025 joined the case within 48 hours of its announcement.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

2		5		4		9		6
	1		9			7		
6		7	2		3		4	5
	8	6		7		2		1
5	7		8	1		4		
1		2		3				7
	5	9		2		6		4
8		4		5				2
	2		4		6		7	8

1	5	7	9	2	4	8	3	6
3	2	4	1	6	8	9	7	5
8	6	9	3	5	7	2	4	1
2	9	3	4	7	1	6	5	8
5	4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3
6	7	8	2	3	5	1	9	4
7	8	2	5	4	6	3	1	9
9	3	5	8	1	2	4	6	7
4	1	6	7	9	3	5	8	2

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP

Indian envoy strengthens ties through key meetings

WASHINGTON

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met a bipartisan group of US Senators in Washington and discussed several key areas of the India-US partnership, including defence, energy, trade and major global issues.

The meeting took place at India House and brought together Republican Senators Lindsey Graham, Dan Sullivan and Markwayne Mullin, along with Democratic Senators Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal and Sheldon Whitehouse. Kwatra said he was grateful for their support in strengthening the growing partnership between the two nations.

The Ambassador wrote on X that the discussions were "fruitful" and helped deepen understanding on shared interests. He highlighted that cooperation in defence, trade, and global strategic matters continues to be an important pillar of the relationship between New Delhi and Washington.

Kwatra also met General Dan Caine, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, for talks focused on defence cooperation and regional issues that both countries closely monitor. He described the conversation as pleasant and constructive, noting that defence ties continue to expand through regular dialogue and collaboration. In addition to these meetings, the Indian envoy held a detailed discussion last week with Jacob Helberg, the 22nd US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs. Kwatra congratulated Helberg on taking office and said their talks covered a wide range of topics such as a mutually beneficial trade deal, the strategic trade dialogue, and technology partnerships, including cooperation in artificial intelligence.

On November 24, Kwatra also met US Representative Jay Obernolte, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Science, Space, and Technology Research. Their conversation focused on strengthening ties in science, technology, innovation and AI, areas where India and the US continue to seek deeper collaboration.

Gujarat Highlights Jan Dhan Yojana's Transformative Impact

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi hailed Jan Dhan Yojana's banking revolution while urging stronger cybersecurity collaboration across sectors

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Tuesday emphasised that the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has triggered an unprecedented transformation in India's banking sector, making financial services accessible to every citizen rather than a privilege for the affluent. Speaking at the 187th meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) in Gandhinagar, he credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for reshaping the country's financial inclusion landscape.

Sanghavi highlighted that Gujarat has emerged as a frontrunner in establishing robust banking infrastructure. The state currently hosts more than 11,000 bank branches, with over 56 per cent situated in rural regions. This extensive network has enabled the opening of more than 1.75 crore Jan Dhan accounts, ensuring that even economically vulnerable households are firmly integrated into the formal banking system.

Turning to challenges posed by the digital era, Sanghavi underlined cybercrime as one of the most serious threats facing the financial sector. He noted that every cybercrime reported to Gujarat's 1930 helpline resulted in a complete freeze of fraudulent transactions, due to rapid coordination between police and partner banks. To strengthen this response further, he urged banks to deepen cooperation with law enforcement and announced the formation of a joint committee comprising the Home Department, Gujarat Police and bank nodal officers to accelerate action against online fraud.

Sanghavi also recounted a recent incident involving Ahmedabad-based bank manager Jayesh Gandhi, who intervened to stop a senior citizen from losing Rs 45 lakh in a digital arrest scam. The Deputy CM said such vigilance and empathy among bank staff could play a significant role in curbing cybercrime. Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Das applauded banks for their role during the economic challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and encouraged them to extend similar commitment to ongoing initiatives such as the SVAMITVA scheme.

QUICK READ

FTAs signed with 15 nations: Minister

New Delhi

Total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow reported during the first half of FY 2025-26 ($50.36 billion) has increased by 16 per cent compared to year-ago period ($43.37 billion) -- highest ever for first half of a financial year, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Gross FDI inflows have increased from over $34 billion in 2012-13 to over $80 billion in 2024-25, said Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, in Lok Sabha. As per official data, India recorded a strong rebound in FDI in the second quarter of the current financial year, with total inflows rising over 18 per cent year.

Delhi to host key India-Russia business forum

New Delhi

A two-day India-Russia business forum is slated to kick off here on December 4-5, coinciding with Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India which is aimed at boosting trade and investment relations between the two countries. The Forum will explore various areas of Russian-Indian cooperation, including expanding Indian engineering products in Russia, increasing Russia's purchases of Indian food products, pharmaceutical goods and collaboration in digital services as the two countries eye a $100 billion bilateral trade target by 2030.

DGCA probes AI over uncertified A320neo flights

New Delhi

Aviation watchdog DGCA is probing the incident of Air India operating an A320 neo plane without having a requisite airworthiness certification on at least eight routes, and the personnel concerned have been de-rostered till completion of the investigation. On the instructions of the regulator, Air India is also carrying out an internal investigation to identify deficiencies in their system and put corrective measures in place to prevent such failures from occurring in future, a statement said on Tuesday.

Noida International Airport Nears Launch

GREATER NOIDA

Preparations for the operationalisation of the Noida International Airport have reached the final stage, with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) expected to submit its security inspection report to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) shortly. If the DGCA approves the findings, the long-awaited aerodrome license could be issued on December 4, removing a key obstacle ahead of the airport's formal launch. Officials indicated the inauguration is likely to take place within a week of licensing, although the Uttar Pradesh government has yet to finalise the exact date.

The opening ceremony is expected to be a high-profile event graced by top leaders from both the state and central governments. Shailendra Bhatia, nodal officer for Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), said the BCAS team conducted a thorough two-day inspection of the airport's security preparations. Technical gaps identified in earlier checks were reviewed again on Monday as part of an extensive reassessment of high-end security systems.

The inspection included baggage and passenger screening mechanisms, CCTV networks, access control points, perimeter security, anti-hijacking systems, bomb disposal setups, and 3D radar installations. According to Bhatia, the systems were found to be effective, and the BCAS has compiled its report accordingly. He confirmed that all construction under the airport's first phase — spread across 1,334 hectares and comprising the runway, taxiways, terminal building, and parking facilities — has been completed. Key technical trials covering baggage handling, boarding operations, security checks, and passenger movement protocols have also been successfully concluded.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the project on November 27 and instructed officials to expedite the remaining processes, including licensing. In its initial phase, the airport will operate domestic flights and handle cargo operations, with international services and additional infrastructure planned for later phases.

The launch of the Noida International Airport is expected to ease congestion at airports across Western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, while generating new employment opportunities and boosting business activity in the region.

Govt to launch mobility app 'Bharat Taxi'

NEW DELHI

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government plans to launch a ride-hailing mobility app 'Bharat Taxi' that aims to free the country's commercial vehicle drivers from dependency on private companies.

The digital app, 'Bharat Taxi', will be operated by the Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd, a multi-state cooperative society, registered under the MSCS Act 2002 on June 06, 2025, Shah said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

"Yes, the government proposes to launch a cooperative-led digital app mobility platform which will support to free the country's commercial vehicle drivers from dependency on private companies," he said.

The Bharat Taxi mobile app is currently available on the Google Play Store for early trials and feedback, with the iOS version expected soon. A key feature of the platform is its integration with public transit, including Delhi Metro, allowing users to plan multi-modal journeys seamlessly on a single interface—a model that could be adapted to Gujarat's urban transport networks in the future.

Safety has been a central focus of the trial, with the cooperative partnering with Delhi Police to protect both riders and drivers.

India's clean-energy capacity hits major milestone with solar leading rapid growth and non-fossil sources surpassing half of total power

India's Solar Capacity Soars to 129 GW as Non-Fossil Power Crosses 50% of Total Energy

NEW DELHI

India's present solar power capacity has reached 129 gigawatt (GW), while the country's total non-fossil electricity capacity has crossed 259 GW, accounting for more than 50 per cent of the nation's installed power capacity as of October 2025, according to official data released on Tuesday. The development marks a historic shift toward low-carbon energy and reinforces India's accelerating transition away from fossil fuels.

The solar sector has witnessed extraordinary growth over the past decade, rising from just 3 GW in 2014 to nearly 129.92 GW by October 2025 — an expansion of more than 40 times. This rapid surge has positioned solar energy as the largest contributor within the renewable energy mix, surpassing wind, hydro, and biomass capacities.

Officials noted that the growth in solar installations is steadily increasing the share of renewable power in India's overall energy mix. This progress is supported not only by strong market demand but also by a comprehensive policy framework that guides the country's long-term clean-energy vision.

A major driver of this momentum is the Panchamrit Declaration announced by India at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. The framework outlines five key national commitments: achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity by 2030, ensuring 50 per cent of installed power capacity comes from non-fossil sources, reducing projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, cutting carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's climate commitments are being implemented through numerous large-scale programmes aimed at accelerating renewable adoption, enhancing sustainable lifestyles, and strengthening the country's clean-technology ecosystem.

IndiGo receives Rs 117.52 crore penalty over input tax credit denial

NEW DELHI

InterGlobe Aviation, parent of IndiGo airlines, on Tuesday informed that it received a penalty order of around Rs 117.52 crore from the Joint Commissioner of Central Tax and Central Excise, CGST Kochi Commissionerate. The order which issued a penalty of Rs 1,17,52,86,402 relates to the denial of input tax credit for the financial years 2018–19 and 2021–22, the airline said in an exchange filing.

The department has denied input tax credit (ITC) availed by the company and has issued a demand order along with penalty, the filing said.

The company believes that the order passed by the authorities is erroneous. Further the company believes that it has a strong case on merits, backed by advice from external tax advisors, it further said.

Accordingly, the company will contest the same before the appropriate authority, it added.

InterGlobe Aviation added that the order does not have a significant impact on its financials, operations or other activities of the company.

There is no significant impact on financials, operations or other activities of the Company, it added in its regulatory filing. Interglobe Aviation Limited shares dipped by Rs 95 or 1.64 per cent in intra-day trading. The shares had opened almost flat at Rs 5,794.50 apiece.

The carrier on November 29 announced new direct routes and frequency additions from Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), strengthening connectivity from the newly inaugurated gateway to key domestic destinations such as Coimbatore, Chennai, Vadodara and North Goa. IndiGo earlier this week said it has completed the update on the mandatory Airbus system enhancement across its A320-family fleet after global flight operations disrupted due to a software issue in the Airbus A320 family of aircraft.

All 200 aircraft have now been fully updated and compliant as required, said the Indian carrier.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, an IndiGo flight from Kuwait to Hyderabad was diverted to Mumbai after authorities at Hyderabad Airport received a bomb threat.

India's defence tech market expected to reach $19 billion by 2030

NEW DELHI

India's defence technology market, valued at $7.6 billion in 2025, is projected to reach $19 billion by 2030, growing at close to a 20 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), a report said on Tuesday. Technology led systems are expected to comprise almost 50 per cent of India's overall defence market by 2030, marking a decisive shift from platform-driven development to advanced engineering and digital capability building, the report from staffing and workforce solutions provider Quess Corp said.

Momentum is strong across computer vision, autonomous systems, counter drone technologies, underwater robotics, advanced sensors, directed energy research and software led mission systems, fuelled by over 1,000 defence tech startups and 194 firms linked through innovation programmes, the report said.

The report also flagged critical shortages in specialised engineering roles including radar engineering, radio frequency engineering, avionics, propulsion, optical engineering, quantum communication systems, systems integration, test and validation and certification.

These roles account for less than 5 per cent of the current defence workforce and could bottleneck aircraft development, unmanned systems, naval projects and secure communication networks.

As much as 71 per cent of total start-up funding in defence-tech startups is directed toward counter-drone solutions, the fastest-growing segment in India's defence innovation ecosystem. The counter-drone market is projected to grow at nearly 17 per cent CAGR, reaching $1.4 billion by 2029.

The next five years are decisive, for India to become a global systems leader, scaling defence-ready AI and frontier engineering talent by 5–6 times is not just an industry need, it is a national imperative, said Kapil Joshi, CEO – IT Staffing, Quess Corp.

India now home to nearly 2 lakh startups amid robust reforms: Govt

NEW DELHI

India's startup ecosystem continues to expand at a steady pace, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognising 1,97,692 startups as on October 31, 2025, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Nearly two lakh startups have been formally recognised under the Startup India initiative, which was launched in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship and ease doing business, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha. Along with rising numbers, startups have also emerged as a major source of job creation. Till October 31, recognised startups have reported creating more than 21.11 lakh direct jobs.

Maharashtra remains a leading hub, with 34,444 recognised startups that have generated over 3.76 lakh jobs -- one of the highest in the country. The government has also shared key achievements of the Startup India initiative, which include efforts to improve access to funding, simplify regulations and strengthen support systems.

Three major schemes -- Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), and the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) -- are actively supporting ventures at different stages.

All funds under the FFS and SISFS have already been committed or approved, while 311 startup loans worth Rs 755.25 crore have been guaranteed under CGSS. The government said it has been working to promote innovation among youth, improve market access and encourage participation from women entrepreneurs. Nearly 48 per cent of all recognised startups have at least one woman director or partner.

CENTRE PAYS MSP

Centre Pays ₹3.47L cr to Farmers for MSP Procurement

NEW DELHI

Minister of Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday informed Parliament that the Centre has disbursed ₹3.47 lakh crore directly to farmers for procuring 1,223 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains at the minimum support price (MSP) during the 2024-25 crop year. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, he said MSP for 22 mandated crops is fixed annually based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after consultations with state governments and relevant central ministries.

Chouhan recalled that the Union Budget for 2018-19 had laid down the principle of setting MSPs at least 1.5 times the cost of production. Since then, MSPs for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and commercial crops have been revised to ensure farmers receive a minimum return of 50 per cent over the all-India weighted average cost of production. He said procurement is carried out through designated government agencies, and farmers retain the flexibility to sell either to the government or in open markets, depending on what benefits them more.

The minister said data shows that this enhanced MSP regime has significantly benefited farmers nationwide. Apart from MSP procurement, the Centre has launched multiple measures to enhance farmers' financial security. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme, ₹12,256 crore has been paid to farmers during 2024-25. These insurance schemes, introduced from Kharif 2016, provide comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post-harvest stages for losses caused by natural calamities or adverse weather. Both schemes remain voluntary for states and farmers.

Chouhan further stated that the government has disbursed ₹76,980 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) since its launch in 2020-21 until November 25, 2025. The fund offers medium- to long-term debt financing for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

Air Pollution in India: A Choking Crisis

Air pollution stands as India's most pressing environmental threat, blanketing cities and rural areas alike in a toxic haze that claims millions of lives prematurely each year. Cities like Delhi, often dubbed the world's pollution capital, endure seasonal smog so dense it grounds flights and shuts schools, while even southern regions grapple with rising particulate levels. This pervasive problem stems from a toxic mix of rapid urbanization, unchecked industrialization, and outdated agricultural practices, turning breathable air into a silent killer.

The scale of air pollution in India defies comprehension. According to recent assessments, every single resident breathes air exceeding safe limits, with the national average PM2.5 concentration surpassing the World Health Organization's guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic meter by wide margins. Northern plains bear the brunt, exposing over 544 million people to hazardous levels, where Delhi's January 2025 average hit 165 micrograms per cubic meter—far above national standards of 60 micrograms. By November, the capital's year-to-date AQI averaged 187, an improvement from prior years yet still perilously high, with peaks flirting with 999 in extreme episodes. Across 240 monitored cities, only a fraction met compliance in early 2025, as places like Byrnihat recorded averages of 214 micrograms, cementing India's hold on global pollution rankings.

Root Causes Fueling the Smog

India's air pollution crisis originates from multiple intertwined sources, each amplifying the others in a vicious cycle. Vehicular emissions top the list at around 27 percent of urban pollution, with millions of diesel buses, two-wheelers, and cars spewing nitrogen oxides and particulates on congested roads. Industries contribute a staggering 51 percent, as coal-fired power plants, steel mills, and cement factories belch sulfur dioxide and fly ash without adequate scrubbers. Crop burning in states like Punjab and Haryana adds seasonal fury; farmers torch stubble post-harvest, releasing massive plumes that drift southward, spiking Delhi's pollution tenfold in winter. Rural biomass burning—cooking with wood, dung, and crop residue—exacerbates indoor and outdoor exposure for 70 percent of households. Construction dust, waste incineration, and even Diwali fireworks compound the issue, while stagnant winter winds trap pollutants in a phenomenon called inversion. Urban sprawl accelerates this mayhem. Mega-cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru, once relatively cleaner, now mirror Delhi's plight as populations swell beyond infrastructure capacity. In 2025, the Indo-Gangetic Plain saw sharp October rises, with cities like Dharuhera averaging 123 micrograms and breaching standards 77 percent of days. Northern hotspots—Ghaziabad, Kanpur, and hotspots like Khawaja Bagh at 398 AQI—dominate worst-city lists, but southern outliers like Ariyalur offer fleeting relief at 13 AQI. Enforcement gaps persist; lax regulations allow old vehicles and polluting brick kilns to operate unchecked.

Devastating Health and Economic Toll

The human cost eclipses statistics. Fine PM2.5 particles penetrate lungs and bloodstreams, triggering asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks, and strokes. India loses 1.67 million lives annually to air pollution, shaving 5.3 years off average life expectancy nationwide. In Delhi alone, cleaning air to WHO levels could add 8.2 years; even nationwide compliance yields 9.4 months per person. Children suffer most—stunted lungs lead to lifelong respiratory issues—while pregnant women face higher miscarriage risks. Hospitals overflow during smog seasons, with emergency visits surging 20-30 percent. Economically, the burden cripples growth. Polluted air slashes GDP by 3 percent yearly through lost productivity, healthcare costs, and agricultural yield drops from acid rain. Workers in polluted zones experience fatigue and absenteeism, while tourism dips in smog-shrouded landmarks. Cleaner southern cities like Thanjavur at 17 AQI highlight potential gains, yet national inaction perpetuates losses estimated at billions.

Government Initiatives and Gaps

India has rolled out measures like the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), targeting 40 percent PM reduction by 2026 through city action plans. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR bans construction, restricts trucks, and enforces odd-even car schemes during crises. The Commission for Air Quality Management coordinates across states, while 2025 saw fewer severe days—zero above 450 AQI versus prior peaks—thanks to stubble-burning curbs and electric vehicle pushes. Real-time monitoring via 2,500 stations aids data-driven responses. Yet challenges abound. Political blame games hinder unity; northern states resist farm reforms, industries flout norms, and enforcement relies on outdated tech. National standards lag WHO by eightfold, diluting urgency. Rural clean fuel adoption stalls at 50 percent, and coal dependency endures despite solar ambitions.

Pathways to Breathable Future

Tackling India's air pollution demands bold, multi-pronged action. Accelerate electric mobility with subsidies for buses and charging networks, aiming for 30 percent EV penetration by 2030. Retrofit industries with electrostatic precipitators and shift to renewables, emulating China's coal curbs. Promote zero-till-age farming and bio-decomposers to end stubble burning, coupled with satellite enforcement. Expand urban green belts, pedestrian zones, and waste-to-energy plants to curb dust and open burning. Public awareness campaigns, stricter Diwali firecracker bans, and WHO-aligned standards would galvanize change. Community involvement—school programs, cycle tracks—builds momentum. International lessons abound: China's city car limits and heater swaps slashed Beijing's smog. India could adapt these, leveraging its youthful demographic for innovation. Recent 2025 improvements signal progress; sustaining them requires unwavering political will. If acted upon, cleaner skies promise healthier lives, economic vitality, and a sustainable legacy. The air India breathes today shapes its tomorrow—time to clear the haze.

Waste Management Crisis in India: Overflowing Landfills and Hidden Dangers

India's rapid urbanization and population growth have turned waste management into one of the nation's most pressing environmental challenges. Cities generate massive amounts of garbage daily, but inadequate systems lead to overflowing landfills that pose severe risks to public health and ecosystems. This crisis stems from poor collection, limited recycling, and rampant open dumping, creating a vicious cycle of pollution that demands immediate attention.

The Scale of the Problem

Urban India produces over 62 million tonnes of solid waste annually, with projections indicating a rise to 165 million tonnes by 2030. Major metros like Mumbai handle around 11,000 tonnes per day, yet processing facilities cover only half that volume, forcing the rest into landfills. These sites, often poorly engineered, become mountains of refuse that leach toxic chemicals into surrounding soil and groundwater. In cities such as Delhi and Bengaluru, landfills like Bhalswa and Mandur emit foul odors and attract disease-carrying vectors, affecting millions living nearby. The informal sector, including waste pickers, recovers up to 20% of recyclables, but without proper integration, much valuable material ends up buried. Rural areas fare no better, with agricultural and organic waste often burned openly, releasing harmful pollutants. This mismanagement not only wastes resources but exacerbates climate change through methane emissions from decomposing waste.

Key Causes Behind the Failure

Several interconnected factors fuel this waste management debacle. First, insufficient infrastructure plagues urban local bodies, which lack modern processing plants, vehicles, and trained personnel for door-to-door collection. Many municipalities rely on outdated open dumping, ignoring segregation mandates. Second, rapid population influx strains existing systems; for instance, peri-urban areas expand without corresponding waste facilities. Public awareness remains low, with households failing to separate biodegradable from non-biodegradable waste at the source. Industries and commercial entities contribute heavily through packaging and e-waste, but enforcement of regulations is weak. Financial constraints hit hard too—municipalities struggle with funding for technology upgrades, often resorting to cheap, polluting landfills. Corruption and poor governance further hinder progress, as contracts for waste processing go unfulfilled. The legacy of colonial and post-independence policies plays a role, shifting from community-driven practices to state dependency without accountability. Abolished user fees discouraged responsibility among generators, leading to the current free-for-all scenario where waste accumulates unchecked.

Environmental and Health Impacts

Overflowing landfills create leachate—a toxic liquid that seeps into water bodies, contaminating rivers and aquifers with heavy metals, pathogens, and chemicals. This pollution disrupts aquatic ecosystems, killing fish and rendering water unsafe for irrigation or drinking. Groundwater near sites like Okhla in Delhi shows elevated levels of nitrates and fluorides, linked to crop failures and health issues. Air quality suffers from fires and decomposition, releasing dioxins, furans, and particulate matter that contribute to smog. Residents near landfills report higher rates of respiratory illnesses, skin diseases, and cancers. Children and the elderly are most vulnerable, with studies showing increased asthma cases in affected communities. Biodiversity loss is evident as birds and animals scavenge these sites, ingesting plastics that enter the food chain. Soil degradation is another silent killer; landfill overflow spreads contaminants, reducing fertility and forcing farmers to use more chemicals.

Government Initiatives and Efforts

India has launched ambitious programs to combat this crisis. The Swachh Bharat Mission, started in 2014, promotes segregation, sanitation, and scientific disposal, achieving notable success in cities like Indore, now ranked India's cleanest. It integrates waste pickers through cooperatives, boosting collection efficiency. Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016 mandate source segregation, extended producer responsibility, and landfill bans for untreated waste. Schemes like GOBAR-Dhan convert organic waste into biogas and manure, while NAMASTE formalizes waste workers with training and security. Plastic Waste Management projects use technology for recycling, and Waste-to-Energy plants turn refuse into power, though scalability remains a challenge. Models like Pune's SWaCH, serving 800,000 households, divert 200 tonnes daily from landfills via community partnerships. Indore's facility produces compost and refuse-derived fuel, setting benchmarks. Central Pollution Control Board portals ensure reporting by producers, enhancing transparency.

Success Stories and Innovations

Indore's transformation stands out: door-to-door collection reaches 100%, with bio-methanation plants processing wet waste. Public participation, strict fines, and private partnerships have kept streets clean and landfills at bay. Surat and Bhopal follow suit, using GPS-tracked vehicles and apps for monitoring. Innovations include AI-sorted recycling units and blockchain for tracking waste. Startups develop enzymes to break down plastics, while drone surveillance spots illegal dumps. Rural biogas plants under GOBAR-Dhan empower villages, cutting firewood use and pollution. These examples prove that political will, community involvement, and technology can yield results, inspiring replication nationwide.

Nice fans attack players after sixth straight loss, sparking major outrage

Tensions erupted after Nice's sixth consecutive defeat, leading to violent fan confrontations

PARIS

Nice and the French league have condemned a shocking outbreak of supporter violence after OGC Nice players and staff were attacked upon returning from a 3-1 Ligue 1 defeat at Lorient — the club's sixth straight loss across all competitions.

When the team bus reached the training and academy centre, a large group of angry fans confronted the squad. Supporters hurled insults, demanded greater commitment, and, according to French media reports, some even boarded the bus.

L'Équipe reported that several players and staff were spat on and punched as they exited. Jérémie Boga and Terem Moffi were allegedly the worst assaulted, receiving multiple blows to the head and groin, while sporting director Florian Maurice was also targeted. Both players have since been granted medical leave, outlets said.

Nice issued a strong statement, acknowledging fan frustration but stressing that the violence "is unacceptable" and offering full support to those affected. The French league (LFP) echoed the condemnation on Tuesday, calling the assaults "completely unacceptable" and vowing to join the legal complaints filed by the players to ensure thorough investigation.

The incident caps a disastrous spell for Nice, who sit 10th after 14 league rounds, 14 points behind leaders Lens. The side has conceded 26 goals and lost seven matches, including last week's 3-0 Europa League defeat at Porto that leaves them bottom of the league phase with five losses.

Coach Franck Haise admitted the team is "fighting for survival," while Maurice pointed to a lack of cohesion after Nice collapsed from a 1-0 lead at Lorient. Some players attempted dialogue with traveling fans, with midfielder Sofiane Diop apologising and acknowledging the team's struggles.

Nice host Angers next on Sunday as pressure intensifies on the embattled club.

Bonmati ruled out of Nations League decider after fracturing left fibula

MADRID

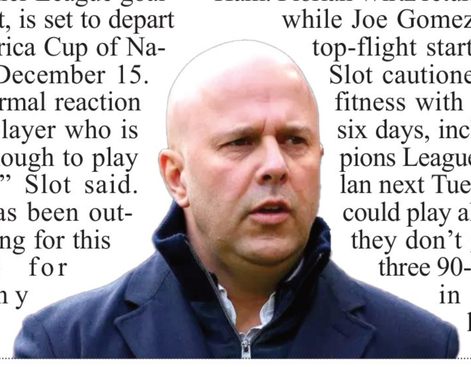
Spain will be without star midfielder Aitana Bonmati for the second leg of the UEFA Women's Nations League final against Germany after the three-time Ballon d'Or winner fractured her left fibula during a training session on Sunday. The Spanish federation confirmed that Bonmati was injured following an accidental collision in training, landing awkwardly and sustaining the fracture that ends her involvement in the decisive match. Spain and Germany remain level after a 0-0 draw in the first leg on Friday. Medical tests carried out by the national team's staff confirmed the severity of the injury, and Bonmati will now return to Barcelona to begin her recovery process, the federation said. No timeline for her return has yet been announced, though fibula fractures typically require several weeks to months of rehabilitation.

The setback is a major blow for Spain, whose recent success has been built around Bonmati's creativity, control, and influence in midfield. She has been central to Spain's golden era, helping the team reach the finals of the last four major tournaments. Spain lifted the 2023 Women's World Cup after beating England, claimed the 2024 Women's Nations League title against France, and finished runners-up at the 2025 Euros, losing to England on penalties. Coach Montse Tomé will now need to adjust her tactical plans for the final leg in Seville, with Spain chasing a historic back-to-back Nations League crown. Bonmati's absence opens the door for younger midfielders to step up on a high-pressure night, though replacing her leadership and on-ball brilliance will be a formidable task.

Soccer-Slot tight-lipped on Salah's Liverpool return

ANFIELD, ENGLAND

Liverpool manager Arne Slot declined to confirm whether Mohamed Salah will feature in Premier League match against Sunderland at Anfield, following the Egyptian's benching during Sunday's 2-0 win at West Ham. Salah, fourth on the all-time Premier League goal-scorers list, is set to depart for the Africa Cup of Nations on December 15. "It's a normal reaction from a player who is good enough to play for us," Slot said. "He has been outstanding for this club for many years and will continue to be. He wasn't the only one not happy that he wasn't starting. The way he behaved is what you'd expect from a professional. For Mo, he is disciplined and knows what to do to stay fit." Salah's last match before the Nations Cup is expected to be against Brighton on December 13. If Egypt reaches the final, he could miss seven Liverpool fixtures. Liverpool have endured their worst 12-game stretch across all competitions in more than 70 years, sitting eighth with 21 points, nine behind leaders Arsenal. They have lost their last two home matches, but Sunderland—sixth with 22 points—have not won at Anfield since 1983. A boost for Slot is the form of record signing Alexander Isak, who netted his first Premier League goal in eight appearances against West Ham. Florian Wirtz returned from injury, while Joe Gomez made his first top-flight start in 11 months. Slot cautioned about player fitness with three games in six days, including a Champions League tie at Inter Milan next Tuesday. "All three could play all three games if they don't get injured, but three 90-minute matches in a week is unlikely.



Papaya vs T-Max: Three-way title fight heads for dramatic Abu Dhabi finale

ABU DHABI

Twelve points separate the top three title contenders as Formula One reaches a thrilling climax, with Lando Norris leading Max Verstappen and Oscar Piastri into Sunday's winner-takes-all showdown.

When the 2025 season began in Melbourne, few anticipated just how fiercely the championship battle would unfold. McLaren's late-2024 surge had hinted at competition for Verstappen, but few predicted a three-man dogfight lasting all the way to Abu Dhabi. Yet here they are — Norris ahead by 12, Verstappen chasing hard, and Piastri lurking four points behind.

McLaren set the early tone. Norris won in Melbourne, before Piastri dominated Shanghai to seal a statement 1-2. The Australian then took command of the title race with victories in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Miami, building a 16-point lead. Verstappen, meanwhile, endured a turbulent start: a disastrous Miami sprint, internal strife at Red Bull, and the mid-season sacking of Christian Horner. Only after Laurent Mekies took charge did Verstappen's form rebound, sparking crucial wins in Monza and Azerbaijan.

McLaren's insistence on allowing Norris and Piastri to race freely added fuel to the fire. Their Canada collision and tense Singapore duel — where McLaren sealed the constructors' title — exposed fractures beneath the team's bright "Papaya" exterior. Norris surged ahead with back-to-back wins in Mexico City and São Paulo, overturning Piastri's once-comfortable advantage.

But the pendulum swung violently in Las Vegas. Verstappen snatched victory while both McLarens were later disqualified for technical breaches. In Qatar, strategy chaos struck again — McLaren failed to pit under safety car conditions, gifting Verstappen another win and tightening the title race.

Now, after 23 rounds, the desert hosts the decider. Papaya rules the pitwall, T-Max is charging, and three gladiators enter the final battle — separated by just 16 points in one of the closest finales in F1 history.

Sarfaraz Khan hits maiden T20 century, still overlooked for India

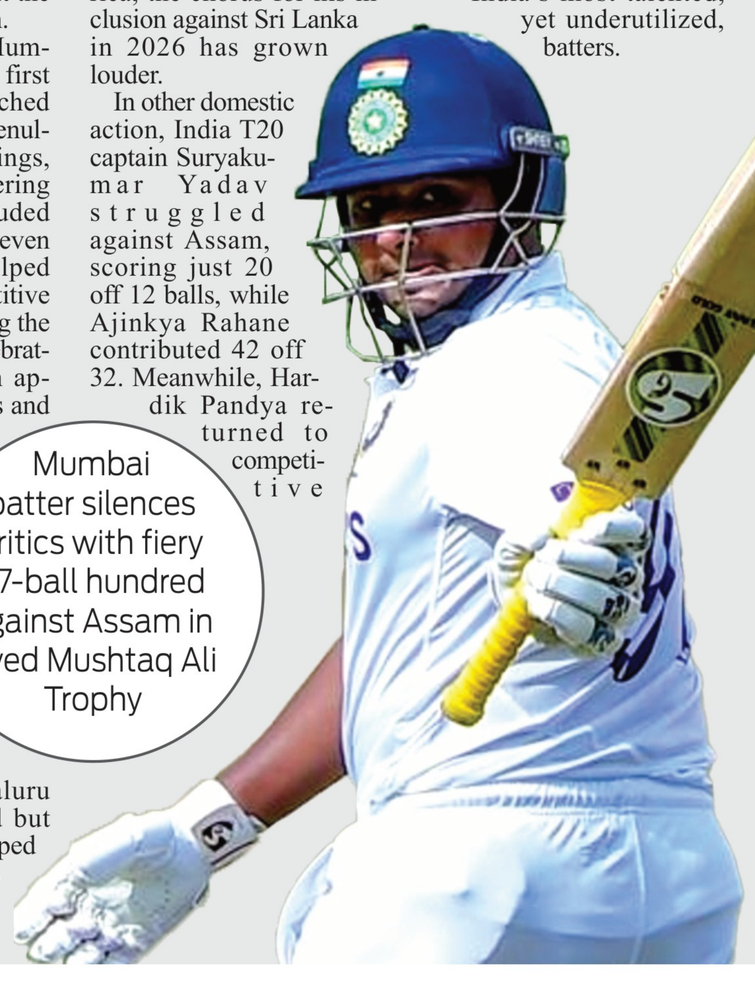
LUCKNOW

Sarfaraz Khan gave a resounding response to his critics on Tuesday, smashing his maiden T20 century in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025 group stage match against Assam at the Ekana Cricket Stadium.

The right-handed Mumbai batter, playing his first T20 in two years, reached the milestone on the penultimate ball of the innings, finishing with a blistering 47-ball 100 that included eight boundaries and seven sixes. His innings helped Mumbai post a competitive 220 runs. After reaching the landmark, Sarfaraz celebrated wildly, basking in applause from teammates and the opposition.

Before this knock, Sarfaraz had only three T20 half-centuries, with a top score of 67. Despite his domestic exploits, he continues to be overlooked for India. Last year, he scored 150 in Bengaluru against New Zealand but was subsequently dropped for the remaining Tests in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. He also missed the series against England, West Indies, and South Africa, though a strong performance for India A against England Lions highlighted his form. Following India's recent home Test series loss to South Africa, the chorus for his inclusion against Sri Lanka in 2026 has grown louder.

In other domestic action, India T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav struggled against Assam, scoring just 20 off 12 balls, while Ajinkya Rahane contributed 42 off 32. Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya returned to competitive cricket for Baroda, hitting an unbeaten 77 to guide his team past Punjab's 223-run target. Sarfaraz's sensational innings has not only reignited his case for national selection but also reminded fans why he remains one of India's most talented, yet underutilized, batters.



Mumbai batter silences critics with fiery 47-ball hundred against Assam in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Arsenal held by 10-man Chelsea as Isak ends drought to lift Liverpool

LONDON

Arsenal dropped points but preserved their lead at the top of the Premier League after a hard-fought 1-1 draw against 10-man Chelsea, while Alexander Isak ended his goal drought to steer Liverpool to a much-needed 2-0 win at West Ham on Sunday.

Chelsea were reduced to 10 men in the 38th minute when Moisés Caicedo was sent off for a reckless foul on Mikel Merino, catching the Arsenal midfielder on the ankle. Despite the setback, Enzo Maresca's side struck first, with Trevoh Chalobah heading in from a Reece James corner shortly after the restart.

Arsenal responded through Merino, who finished a Bukayo Saka cross with a close-range header in the 59th minute. The result keeps the Gunners five points ahead of Manchester City and six clear of Chelsea.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma salutes India greats

RAIPUR

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma acknowledged the enduring brilliance of India's veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, emphasizing that facing them is far from a novelty for the Proteas.

Ahead of the second ODI against India in Raipur, Bavuma reflected on his first encounter with Rohit, recalling the 2007 T20 World Cup when he was still a schoolboy. "We played against Rohit… I think it was in 2007, the T20 World Cup. I was still in school then," he told reporters, highlighting the longevity of India's senior stars.

Bavuma noted that while India's experienced duo strengthens the visitors, South Africa remain unfazed. "The inclusion of those two guys bolsters the team. These are world-class players. We've been on the bad end of it, but we've also had good times against them. It all just makes the series a lot more exciting," he said.

He also praised the impact of Marco Jansen, whose 39-ball 70 nearly guided South Africa to victory in the first ODI, which India won by 17 runs. "From an all-rounder point of view, I don't know where the rankings sit, but Marco Jansen in any format will definitely be in a top 10. His contributions, with bat or ball, have been immense to our success," Bavuma remarked.

Despite the narrow defeat, Bavuma expressed confidence in his side's competitiveness. "These guys have been around, so there is nothing new. The margin was close. We're still very much in this series and capable of bouncing back," he said.

South Africa now aim to level the three-match series in the second ODI, with Bavuma insisting that experience and skill, while formidable, will not intimidate his team. The Proteas hope to build on Jansen's all-round performance and challenge India's established match-winners in Raipur.

India bank on Kohli-Rohit partnership to clinch ODI series against resilient SA

RAIPUR

India will rely on Virat Kohli's sublime touch and Rohit Sharma's steady presence as they aim to wrap up the ODI series against a determined South Africa when the teams meet for the second match today. The duo powered India to a 17-run win in the series opener at Ranchi, with Kohli's record-extending 52nd ODI hundred and Rohit's brisk 57 setting the tone before the bowlers endured a spirited comeback from the Proteas. With the 2027 ODI World Cup inching closer, the spotlight remains firmly on Kohli and Rohit, who are not only proving form and fitness but are reportedly working through growing differences with head coach Gautam Gambhir.

The tension has dominated off-field chatter, and the BCCI may be required to intervene soon.

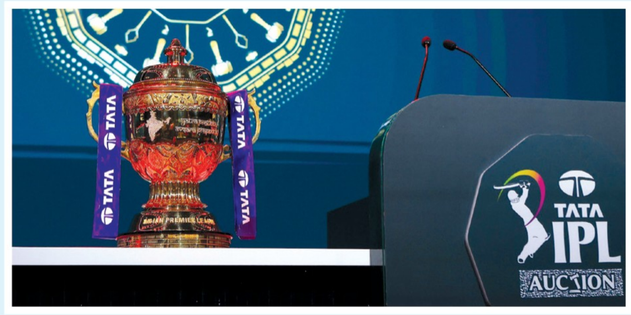
India, meanwhile, have issues beyond dressing-room rumours. Their batting combination appears unsettled. Ruturaj Gaikwad, usually an opener, was slotted at No. 4 and looked out of rhythm, while stand-in captain KL Rahul continues to back himself at No. 6. Washington Sundar, no stranger to role changes, struggled again at No. 5 and had a quiet outing with the ball. There were positives too—Harshit Rana impressed early with two wickets before losing some control later, while Kuldeep Yadav's four-wicket haul, despite being expensive, proved decisive under the ICC's revised one-ball rule in the final 16 overs.

South Africa will take heart from their fightback after being 11/3. Marco Jansen smashed a 26-ball fifty en route to 70 off 39, and debutant Matthew Breetzke's 72 kept them in the chase. With rested stars Temba Bavuma and Keshav Maharaj set to return, the visitors will be stronger.

The venue, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium, has historically aided seamers, and India previously bowled out New Zealand for 108 here in 2023.

The match begins at 1:30 pm IST.

India look to Kohli and Rohit to secure ODI series win today



Over 1,300 players register for IPL 2026 auction; Smith, Shaw in

ABU DHABI

Over 1,300 players — including major overseas stars and several prominent Indians — have registered for the IPL 2026 mini-auction scheduled for December 16 in Abu Dhabi. The longlist of 1,355 names has been circulated among franchises following the closure of the registration window on November 30, according to a report.

Among the registered players, 45 have entered the top base-price bracket of ₹2 crore. Only two Indians — Venkatesh Iyer and Ravi Bishnoi — feature in this elite group. Franchises will now prune this list into a final shortlist for the auction later this month.

The roster features a mix of established international names and rising talents. Big overseas stars such as Steve Smith, Cameron Green, Wanindu Hasaranga, Matheesha Pathirana, Mustafizur Rahman, and Rachin Ravindra have registered. Green, who missed the 2025 mega auction due to injury, is expected to attract heavy bidding thanks to his all-round credentials. Punjab Kings wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis, crucial to the franchise's 2025 runners-up finish, has also signed up despite limited availability.From India, notable names include Prithvi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Navdeep Saini, KS Bharat, Rahul Chahar, and others seeking to reignite their IPL careers. There is even a Malaysian entry — India-born all-rounder Virandeep Singh, listed at a ₹30 lakh base price.

Top Base Price Bracket (₹2 crore – 45 players)
Indians: Ravi Bishnoi, Venkatesh Iyer

Overseas highlights:

- Steve Smith
- Cameron Green
- Josh Inglis
- Mustafizur Rahman
- Rachin Ravindra
- Wanindu Hasaranga
- Matheesha Pathirana
- Gerald Coetzee
- Devon Conway
- Adam Milne
- Lungi Ngidi
- Tom Curran
- Liam Livingstone
- David Miller

Jansen's rapid evolution into a dependable all-rounder has transformed South Africa's team balance

Marco Jansen's all-round rise puts him among cricket's most valuable assets

RANCHI

South Africa's Marco Jansen has swiftly emerged as one of world cricket's most valuable all-round assets, blending incisive fast bowling with increasingly influential lower-order batting. At 25, the left-armer has moved far beyond the promise of a new-ball prospect, evolving into a match-shaping presence across formats.

Jansen's bowling continues to define his core value — steep bounce, natural angles, and movement off the surface have earned him pivotal spells, while improved control and a fuller length have elevated him into a leadership role within South Africa's pace attack. But it is his batting transformation that has added rare balance to the side. No longer an unpredictable tailender, Jansen now walks in with a clear method, often rescuing South Africa or extending totals into winning ranges. His defining knock came in the Guwahati Test against India in November 2025, where his 91-ball 93 at No. 9 lifted South Africa to 489, altering the match's course. Earlier, a gritty 59 in Wellington and impactful ODI cameos — including a 42 in Gqeberha and 38 in Kimberley — showcased his rising consistency under pressure.Compared with modern fast-bowling all-rounders, Jansen's trajectory stands out. Cameron Green offers stronger batting numbers but lacks Jansen's aggression with the ball; Hardik Pandya's workload limits his impact; and Ben Stokes no longer bowls regularly. Few today combine pace, bounce, and lower-order hitting as effectively.

Delhi HC junks wrestlers' pleas over WFI polls after repeated absence

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has dismissed the petitions filed by celebrated wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and Satyawart Kadian challenging the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) December 2023 elections, following their repeated failure to appear before the court. The decision effectively brings the long-running legal challenge to an end.

The petitioners had approached the court alleging that the WFI polls, in which Sanjay Singh defeated Anita Sheoran—backed by the three Olympians—were marred by procedural lapses and lacked transparency. Their pleas sought judicial intervention to address what they termed irregularities in the conduct of the election. During the hearing on November 27, Justice Mini Pushkarna noted that none of the petitioners were present when the matters were taken up. The court also recorded their absence in the two previous hearings. "The petitioners do not seem to be interested in prosecuting the present matters," the order stated, leading to dismissal of the petitions in default and for non-prosecution.

The case had drawn significant public attention due to the involvement of some of India's most accomplished wrestlers, who had earlier spearheaded protests in 2023 seeking accountability and structural reforms within the WFI. Their legal challenge was seen as an extension of that movement, questioning the fairness of the federation's electoral process.

With the High Court terminating the proceedings, the WFI elections stand reaffirmed, closing a key chapter in the ongoing tussle between the federation and the athletes who had demanded change.

Marijne, Charlesworth in frame after Harendra's exit as women's coach

CHENNAI

Indian women's hockey is poised for a significant shake-up following the resignation of head coach Harendra Singh, who stepped down citing personal reasons. While his exit was formally attributed to personal matters, sources indicated that his departure had been imminent, driven largely by declining on-field results and diminishing trust within the dressing room.

Former head coach Sjoerd Marijne has emerged as the top contender to return to the role. Marijne, who guided India to a historic fourth-place finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (held in 2021), has reportedly been approached by Hockey India and is considered the likeliest choice to take over. Despite past friction with the federation—including objections to certain content in his yet-to-be-published book—Marijne remains highly regarded for his familiarity with the team and previous success.

Adding to the momentum for change, there is widespread buzz that former India coach and technical director Ric Charlesworth could join as a mentor. The celebrated Australian coach, known for his deep understanding of Indian hockey, is seen as a strong strategic fit who would require minimal time to reintegrate given his prior stints with both men's and women's teams.

Trump to attend 2026 WC finals draw in Washington, says White House

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump will attend the draw for the 2026 FIFA World Cup finals at the Kennedy Center on December 6, the White House announced. The United States is co-hosting the upcoming tournament with Canada and Mexico, marking one of the biggest sporting undertakings in North America's history.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed the President's participation, noting that his administration views the World Cup as a flagship event for both his second term and the broader celebrations surrounding the 250th anniversary of US independence in 2026. Trump has repeatedly highlighted the tournament as a symbol of national pride and international engagement. However, the build-up to the event has unfolded against an increasingly tense political backdrop. Trump's hardline positions on crime and illegal migration have brought the World Cup into the broader political conversation, particularly as he has publicly questioned whether certain US host cities should retain their matches. He has cited concerns regarding public safety in several Democratic-run cities and suggested possible venue shifts, sparking pushback from local officials and sports authorities. Despite the controversy, preparations for the tournament continue across the three host nations. For the United States, the 2026 edition represents its most significant involvement in the World Cup since hosting the 1994 tournament, with expanded participation, larger venues and an unprecedented global audience expected to follow the event.

GLENN MAXWELL pulls out of IPL 2026, signalling close of storied league career

MELBOURNE

Australia's veteran all-rounder Glenn Maxwell on Tuesday confirmed that he will not participate in the IPL 2026 mini-auction, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi on December 16. The 37-year-old's decision effectively marks the end of his IPL journey, making him the third major player—after Andre Russell and Faf du Plessis—to opt out of this year's auction. Maxwell announced his decision through an emotional Instagram post, expressing gratitude for the opportunities and experiences the league had offered him. "After many unforgettable seasons in the IPL, I've decided not to put my name into the auction this year… I've been lucky to play with world-class teammates, represent incredible franchises, and perform in front of fans whose passion is unmatched," he wrote, adding that the energy and memories from India would "stay with me forever." Maxwell was signed by Kings XI Punjab for ₹4.2 crore in last year's mega auction but endured a lean run, scoring only 48 runs in six innings before a finger injury cut his season short. His IPL record remains impressive: across 141 matches, the explosive right-hander amassed 2,819 runs at an average of 23.88. Since debuting with Delhi Capitals in 2012, Maxwell's career saw him win the 2013 title with Mumbai Indians, dominate during a prolific stint with Punjab Kings.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.